

Appeasement does not work, Bush says, as Baghdad announces 'eternal' annexation of Kuwait

Iraq war fears grow as US troops arrive

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FEARS of a war in the Gulf were heightened yesterday after President Bush said appeasement did not work and likened Saddam Hussein to Hitler, while Iraq announced the annexation of Kuwait.

President Mubarak of Egypt said he expected a massive military strike against Iraq and called an emergency Arab League summit to try to prevent outright conflict. Jordan declared a full military and police alert as the first American troops arrived in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Bush emphasised the defensive role of those troops when he made a television address yesterday morning, but he insisted: "If history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression or it will destroy our freedoms. Appeasement does not work. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbours."

Iraq had amassed an enormous war machine on the Saudi border and it would be unwise and unrealistic to assume that it would not attack that kingdom as it had Kuwait. Responding to reports that Iraqis were arming warplanes with chemical weapons, he said in a press conference later that their use would be intolerable and would be dealt with "very, very severely".

Mr Bush insisted that the troops being sent to Saudi Arabia would be part of a multinational force, almost

certainly including an Arab component. Britain yesterday confirmed that it would be sending naval and air forces to back up the American contingents, but stopped short of sending ground troops.

Turkey, Morocco and Egypt have all denied that they will also send forces to Saudi Arabia, but Bahrain airport will be closed today, raising speculation that it may be awaiting the arrival of Egyptian troops. There were also unconfirmed reports that America has set up a field hospital in Bahrain.

In his address from the Oval Office, Mr Bush said: "America does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny

any other territory. President Mubarak was scathingly dismissive of Iraqi assertions about its territorial ambitions. "You said you would not strike (at Kuwait) and you struck," the Egyptian leader said in a television broadcast. "Now you are turning to Saudi Arabia and saying 'I will not strike'. It will not believe you. Will Saudi Arabia just stand by and await a catastrophe too?"

His personal opinion, as a former military commander, was that Iraq would receive a massive strike. "There is an aggression coming. It could be horrible and destructive. The situation is very dangerous. I keep trying to find a chance for hope, but the doors are closed." Egypt had not, he said, sent troops to the Gulf but would consider contributing to an Arab buffer force between Kuwait and Iraq after an Iraqi withdrawal.

Mr Mubarak, along with Syria and Algeria, reiterated his call for an urgent Arab League summit and last night Arab leaders began gathering in Cairo for the emergency meeting. Mr Mubarak said it should aim to find a way out of the crisis and not "exchange accusations and insults and tear at each other's throats. We want to find a solution within the Arab framework which is better for the Arab world."

The Egyptian president was speaking hours after a nuclear-powered American aircraft carrier and five warships had been permitted to sail through the Suez canal and Egyptian air space had been opened to the American military. About four thousand troops were heading for Saudi Arabia, but American defence officials said the troop deployment might eventually swell to 40,000 or more. Spain and Italy have made their military bases available to the United States.

Britain's decision to send support forces came after a two-hour emergency cabinet meeting and after a telephone conversation between Margaret Thatcher and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the main aim was to deter an attack, but he left no doubt that the British forces would not simply be there to guard installations.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office has protested to Iraq about the rape of a British Airways stewardess by an Iraqi soldier soon after the invasion on Thursday. The woman was attacked at riflepoint as people on a stranded airliner were bussed into Kuwait City.



Mrs Thatcher at the Eastbourne funeral yesterday for Ian Gow after she chaired the cabinet committee meeting on the Gulf conflict. Report, page 22

Thatcher sends air and naval units to Gulf

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH air and naval forces are to be sent to the Gulf to join a multinational effort to defend Saudi Arabia and other threatened countries from Iraqi aggression.

The decision was taken yesterday by an emergency meeting of the cabinet's overseas and defence committee chaired by Margaret Thatcher and came after a request for help from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. American troops and aircraft were arriving in Saudi Arabia last night.

The government's move received wide backing. Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, pledged to support "the deployment of British naval and air units in support of threatened states". He called for a blockade of oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

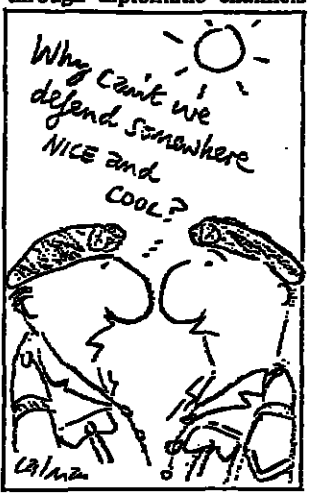
After the cabinet committee meeting Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in Downing Street: "The essential point is that Saddam Hussein now knows an attack on Saudi Arabia, were he to contemplate one, would not be an attack on Saudi Arabia alone."

The purpose of the action from Britain and the international community was to

deter any further acts of aggression by making it clear it would be expensive, damaging and destructive for Iraq, Mr Hurd said.

After the two-hour meeting the defence ministry began consultations with the American government and other allies to agree the details of Britain's contribution. Warships and aircraft will be sent but the sending of ground troops is not envisaged at present.

The government received indications yesterday morning through diplomatic channels



that King Fahd wanted a multinational effort. Downing Street sources said. On that basis the cabinet committee took its decision. At the end of the meeting the prime minister had an hour-long conversation with King Fahd who personally made the request for help and welcomed the government's decision. Mr Hurd said that Iraqi troops were close to the Saudi Arabia border. "There are no grounds for suspecting invasion is imminent but the Saudis are taking precautions."

Mr Hurd disclosed there would be an Arab element in the multinational force. "It is too soon to be precise but an effort is being made to involve contingents from Arab countries and the first signs are that this will happen."

Tom King, the defence secretary, who stood alongside Mr Hurd when he announced the government's decision, said Britain's contribution could be sent quite quickly. He emphasised their role would be to defend Saudi Arabia. Asked whether they would be involved in trying to retake Kuwait, he said: "No."

The cabinet committee is expected to meet again at Downing Street today.

Bhutto trapped by travel ban

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S caretaker government, backed by the military, has banned Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister, from leaving the country as it became clear yesterday that the armed forces are determined never to let her return to power.

The interim government, headed by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister, regarded as little more than a front for the armed forces, has launched corruption investigations into Miss Bhutto's close family and political allies in an obvious attempt to discredit her and perhaps ban her from contesting future elections.

It looks certain that her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, will face trial. He too has been banned from going abroad.

The new prime minister said at his first press conference yesterday that the dismissal of the previous gov-

ernment was constitutional. Despite glaring evidence to the contrary, he insisted that the army played no part in it. Miss Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples party (PPP) is showing signs of splitting. There has already been one high-level defection to the interim government, and others are certain to follow.

She warned that the army might take direct control in a few weeks and accused military intelligence of putting pressure on MPs to defect from the PPP. "They were offered \$500,000 (£266,000) to switch over. They were threatened that if they did not do so, martial law would be imposed," she said.

The new prime minister insisted yesterday that elections will be held on October 24.

Nobody doubts that serious financial transgressions will be

Continued on page 22, col 1

Mrs Mandela charge hint

The prosecution of Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, is under consideration following a sentence of death passed yesterday on Jerry Richardson, coach of the "Mandela United Football Club".

Richardson received the sentence for the murder of "Stompie" Moeketsi Seipei, aged 14. Mr Justice O'Donovan who passed the sentence, ruled that there was evidence that she was present "for part of the time" when Stompie was assaulted. Page 10

Future bleak

The future of the *Sunday Correspondent* looked more uncertain yesterday after *The Independent* said that it had withdrawn from talks to buy the paper's title and goodwill. Page 7

Royal concert

Three specially commissioned first performances by young British composers, and an assembly of important performers took part in a special Birthday concert for the Queen Mother last week. Page 22

On song

The British electronics group Thorn EMI has bought the copyright of music including *Stardust*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, a share of Elvis Presley's *Heartbreak Hotel*, and the theme from *Coronation Street* by taking over music publishers Filmtrax. Page 23

Degree results

Degrees from Newcastle university will be published tomorrow. Nottingham degrees appear today. Page 26

INDEX

Arts	19,20
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Books	18
Business	23-26
Court & Social	14
Crosswords	15,22
Health & Science	16
Loading articles	13
Letters	13
Obituary	14
Poems	27
Sport	30-34
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22

New North Sea strike today

By KERRY GILL

THE third stoppage in a week will hit the North Sea oil and gas industry today when thousands of contract workers will strike for 24 hours.

The action, called by the offshore industry liaison committee behind the recent unrest, is expected to affect platforms from the North Sea to East Anglia. The strike comes at a time of increasing concerns over world supplies and could affect Britain's oil supplies within months.

The oil companies have condemned the strikes by men

engaged on essential maintenance and repair work during the summer "weather window". The industry is due to increase production in the North Sea from the present 1.6 million barrels of oil a day to 1.9 million barrels by November. A slowing of the maintenance schedules could imperil production levels and stop Britain returning to self-sufficiency before the end of the year.

Ronald McDonald, chairman of the liaison committee, said last night: "We cannot tell how widespread it will be because we have a lot of our troops at home in the bar-

racks". That was a reference to the strikers flown off the platforms after the previous two 24-hour strikes.

Earlier yesterday, it was hoped that a breakthrough in the dispute was possible. Bob Eadie, area officer of the electricians' and plumbers' union, Eetpu, said the official trade unions had held informal talks with some of the employers in an effort to get dismissed workers reinstated. Details of the talks were not released.

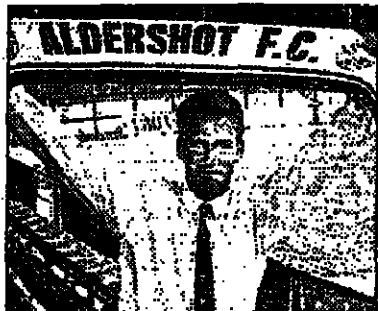
Mr Eadie said: "I don't want to go overboard with optimism, but I can begin to see a resolution to this dispute."

Local hero aged 19 saves his football club

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT IS EVERY young man's dream to score the winning goal for his local football team and milk the adulation of the supporters. Last night, in the unlikely setting of Aldershot, one such young man was the hero of the crowd after saving the fourth division club from extinction.

Spencer Trethewy, aged 19, scored the financial winner for Aldershot by investing £200,000 of his own money in the club to beat a winding-up order which had threatened to lose the club its Football League status. Mr Trethewy, who was educated at Epsom College and who has made his fortune in property, has followed Aldershot for the past five years. "I could not let them go under," he said. "The club deserved the money, and I am just pleased that I can help save



Trethewy yesterday: "I could not let the club go under"

it." Mr Trethewy's donation has been a godsend for the club's 13 full-time professionals who had been training every day for ten weeks without pay and some of whom had had their telephones disconnected. The wife of one player was expecting a baby any day and another had just exchanged

contracts on a new house. It was a joy for the supporters, too. "Words cannot explain how I feel," one said last night. "I thought we had reached the end and now all the debts are cleared and we can start again... it is just great."

The Football League, faced with starting the season one team short, was also pleased, in spite of the winding-up petition having been adjourned until Wednesday for all debts to be cleared.

Mr Trethewy, who once played for the Nottingham Forest youth team, has now made his mark in football. He will join the Aldershot board of directors and plans a sponsorship deal with his property company in September. "I am a business man and obviously I will be applying my business sense to how things are run

but I will not be making any money out of it," he said. The £100,000 he paid yesterday helped to clear outstanding debts of £376,145. The sponsorship deal is worth £60,000 with a further £40,000 two-year deal next season.

Mr Trethewy's path to goal has been carefully considered. In recent months he had been monitoring the club's position. "The figure owed by the club kept changing and it has not been until now that it has all come together," he said. "I did consult my parents and they were delighted. They have always given me advice."

For Mr Trethewy and the club, which was formed in 1926, the serious business starts now. "I have big plans for the club and it is now up to the players to start winning some games," he said. "I don't accept second best."

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: CONFRONTING IRAQ

Reports on missiles and chemical arms fuel American fears

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush disclosed for the first time yesterday that Iraqi troops were deploying powerful surface-to-surface missiles, while American intelligence reports suggested that Iraqi troops have also been loading what appeared to be chemical weapons on to their military aircraft.

Further reports here yesterday suggested that the Iraqis have secretly deployed dozens of Iraqi fighter aircraft in Yemen, on the other side of Saudi Arabia from Iraq.

These actions by Iraq, combined with its massing of what Mr Bush called an "enormous war machine" on the Saudi border, apparently shook the Saudi leadership and were said to have been decisive factors in the Saudi decision on Monday to ask American troops to defend the kingdom. Iraq has several thousand

tons of deadly chemicals which it has used during its eight-year war with Iran and on its own Kurdish population, and could well use them against Saudi and American troops if it decides to invade.

Though Mr Bush did not identify the missiles, they are thought to include Soviet-made Scud-B missiles with a range of up to 375 miles. They illustrate the formidable threat the American forces face.

At the same time, as administration spokesmen had divulged in briefings, the Iraqis were continuing to build up their forces in Kuwait to a level far higher than required for occupation. They were repositioning troops massed on the Saudi border, mobilising more divisions in Iraq, and sending more tanks to Kuwait.

Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, arrived in Jeddah on Monday morning armed with satellite photographs and intelligence reports illustrating what Marlin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, called the "imminent threat" to Saudi Arabia, and these helped him persuade the House of Saud to accept US military help.

From that point on, until the first American troops were in place yesterday morning, the administration strove to keep the operation secret. It feared that if the military movements leaked out, they could provoke President Saddam Hussein into launching an instant pre-emptive strike on Saudi Arabia, and that the Saudis' nerve might crack.

Military bases on America's east coast were placed on alert and sealed, the troops inside forbidden to communicate even with relatives. The Pentagon adopted a policy of strict silence. President Bush informed congressional leaders of his plans early on Tuesday morning but swore them to secrecy.

The strategy worked until shortly after 4pm that day when CBS television interrupted its normal programmes to announce that American troops were being ordered to Saudi Arabia. Cable News Network and the wire agencies swiftly corroborated the report from their own sources. The White House and the Pentagon refused to provide confirmation, however, insisting that there were pressing strategic reasons for not doing so.

That the news leaked out was a source of concern in the administration yesterday, but in the event it did not prove disastrous. Two more immediate concerns here yesterday were the fate of more than four thousand Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait at the mercy of President Saddam, and the danger of prolonged American military involvement in another Middle Eastern "quagmire".

Though President Bush insisted yesterday that the American military role was "wholly defensive", independent experts here pointed to American and international determination that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and to the volatility of President Saddam, and predicted open warfare with Iraq.

"I would say the odds greatly favour a direct military confrontation between the US and Iraq, possibly on a large scale," said Seth Carus, an analyst with the Naval War College Foundation. "I think Saddam Hussein has gone too far to withdraw from Kuwait. The chances of conflict have gone up very sharply."

Barry Rubin, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said: "This holding pattern can't persist for more than a few days. We are on a path of escalation leading to violence."

Judith Kipper, of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the US could not even settle for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as Iraq was developing nuclear weapons. "We can't leave it at an Iraqi withdrawal. The West is so profoundly threatened that it has to bring about a different point of view in Baghdad."

Robert Samuelson, a Washington Post columnist, wrote: "The stakes in this crisis are enormous... the US may be on the verge of a large-scale and permanent military commitment in a dangerous region."



President Bush making his televised speech from the Oval Office yesterday

Ankara exports seized in line with sanctions

From AMELIA FRENCH IN ISTANBUL AND RASIT GURDILEK IN ANKARA

ALL Turkish exports to Iraq are reported to have been seized following Ankara's decision to cut off the Iraqi oil pipelines on its territory in line with the United Nations Security Council's sanctions against Iraq.

A Foreign Office spokesman said no lorries had passed through the main transit point at Hamur since yesterday morning, although the Turkish government has made an exception for food and medicine on humanitarian grounds. Reports said thousands of Turkish tanker lorries had queued up on the Iraqi side of the border trying to get back into Turkey.

Meanwhile, internal pres-

ures began building for a more cautious approach as the United States and Iraq moved closer to a military showdown.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, was expected in Ankara today for talks with President Ozal and other officials. It was speculated Mr Baker would try to persuade Ankara to join or facilitate a military move against Iraq.

A squadron of long-range American F111 bombers was ready at a US air base in southern Turkey 375 miles from the Iraqi border. But government officials denied media reports that Turkish air bases in the southeast have been reinforced with squadrons of new F16 jets and

British-made Rapier air defence missile batteries.

Yildirim Akbulut, the prime minister, met separately yesterday with defence and foreign ministers and General Necip Torunbay, the chief of general staff. General Torunbay said it was not in question "for the time being" that Turkish troops would take part in the "multi-national force" to be deployed in Saudi Arabia. Safa Giray, the defence minister, denied reports that the army has been put on alert. Mr Akbulut, meanwhile, evaded questions over whether Turkey would allow the US to use its bases against Iraq.

Turkey's parliament has been summoned from recess to an emergency session set for Friday after the opposition Social Democrats expressed concern over developments.

Sources close to the government say Ankara was not enthusiastic to join a US intervention "singly or jointly with other members of the Nato alliance". "If an intervention becomes inevitable, the proper way for that could be the assignment of an international task force by the United Nations," they say.

The Turkish embargo on trade with Iraq is expected to cost Turkey an estimated \$3 billion (about £1.6 billion) per year, according to newspaper reports. The losses will be felt in exports, the construction industry and on the fees levied for transporting oil from Iraq through Turkish territory.

Loss of exports to Iraq of fresh fruit, vegetables and agricultural and industrial products, is expected to cost an estimated \$500 million per year.

Bush delivers rallying cry to Americans

President Bush's televised speech to the American people yesterday on his decision to send forces to Saudi Arabia

IN THE life of a nation, we're called upon to define who we are and what we believe... Today, as president, I ask for your support in a decision I've made to stand up for what's right and condemn what's wrong, all in the cause of peace...

I took this action to assist the Saudi government in the defence of its homeland. No one commits American armed forces to a dangerous mission lightly, but after perhaps unparalleled international consultation, and exhausting every alternative, it became necessary to take this action...

Let me tell you why... (Iraq's) aggression came just hours after Saddam Hussein specifically assured numerous countries in the area that there would be no invasion. There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression. A puppet regime, imposed from the outside, is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable.

No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace, and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression. Four simple principles guide our policy:

First, we seek the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait.
Second, Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored to replace the puppet regime.
Third, my administration, as has been the case with every president from President Roosevelt to President Reagan, is committed to the Gulf and

Fourth, I am determined to protect the lives of American citizens abroad... The stakes are high. Iraq is already a rich and powerful country that possesses the world's second-largest reserves of oil, and over a million men under arms. It's the fourth largest military in the world.

Our country now imports nearly half the oil it consumes, and could face a major threat to its economic independence. Much of the world is even

● We must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms ●

more dependent on imported oil and is even more vulnerable to Iraqi threats. We succeeded in the struggle for freedom in Europe because we and our allies remained stalwart. Keeping the peace in the Middle East will require no less.

We're beginning a new era. This new era can be full of promise, an age of freedom, a time of peace for all peoples. But if history teaches us anything, it is that we must resist aggression, or it will destroy our freedoms. Appeasement does not work. As was the case in the 1930s, we see in Saddam Hussein an aggressive dictator threatening his neighbours... Twice we have seen what his promises mean... nothing.

In the last few days I've spoken with political leaders from the Middle East, Europe, Asia, the Americas, and I've met with Prime Minister Thatcher, Prime Minister Mulrooney, and Nato Sec-

retary-general Wörner. And all agree that Iraq cannot be allowed to benefit from its invasion of Kuwait.

We agree that this is... the world's problem... The Arab world, through both the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, courageously announced its opposition to Iraqi aggression...

Sanctions, now enacted in international law, have the potential to deny Iraq the fruits of aggression, while sharply limiting its ability to import or export anything of value, especially oil.

I pledge here today that the United States will do its part to see that these sanctions are effective and to induce Iraq to withdraw, without delay, from Kuwait. But we must recognise that Iraq may not stop using force to advance its ambitions.

Iraq has massed an enormous war machine on the Saudi border, capable of initiating hostilities with little or

● Standing up for our principles is an American tradition ●

no additional preparation... To assume Iraq will not attack again would be unwise and unrealistic. And therefore, after consulting with King Fahd, I sent a secretary of defence Dick Cheney to discuss co-operative measures we could take.

Following those meetings, the Saudi government requested our help and I responded to that request... Let me be clear: the sovereign independence of Saudi Arabia is of vital interest to the United States. This decision, which I shared with the congressional leadership, grows out of the long-standing friendship and security relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. US forces will work together with those of Saudi Arabia and other nations to preserve the integrity of Saudi Arabia, and to deter further Iraqi aggression...

I want to be clear about what we are doing and why. America does not seek conflict, nor do we seek to chart the destiny of other nations. But America will stand by her friends. The mission of our troops is wholly defensive. Hopefully, they will not be needed long.

They will not initiate hostilities, but they will defend themselves; the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other friends in the Gulf.

I will ask oil-producing nations to do what they can to increase production... And I will explore whether we and our allies should draw on our strategic petroleum reserves. Conservation measures can also help. Americans everywhere must do their part. And one more thing: I'm asking the oil companies to do their fair share...

Standing up for our principles is an American tradition. As it has so many times before, it may take time and tremendous effort, but most of all it will take unity of purpose. As I've witnessed throughout my life in both war and peace, America has never wavered when her purpose is driven by principle, and on this August day, at home and abroad, I know she will do no less. (Reuter)

Gulf troops may face risks from chemical arms

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FOREIGN troops deployed in the Gulf, either on the ground or on board ship, could face the awkward prospect of defending themselves against Iraqi chemical weapons. President Saddam Hussein has shown himself ready to use such weapons, banned by the Geneva Convention of 1925, in pursuit of his objectives.

He did so in the Gulf war against Iran, with devastating effect. UN investigators who visited Iran in March 1986 reported that "on many occasions, Iraqi forces have used chemical weapons against Iranian forces", and concluded that the main agent used had been mustard gas, together, on some occasions, with nerve gas.

Official British sources were yesterday under instructions not to speculate publicly about the possibilities, but independent experts have no doubt that if threatened the Iraqis will retaliate with chemical weapons. President Saddam has substantial stocks to call upon. Elizabeth Sigmund, a British specialist, says that mustard gas is produced at a factory at Samarra in Iraq at the rate of 60 tons a month, while the nerve gas, sarin, is produced at another plant, al-Fallujah, at the rate of four tons a month.

The method of attack favoured by the Iraqis in the Gulf war was delivery of the agents from aircraft, which makes command of the skies vital. From the attackers' point of view, this method has the advantage that the aircraft dropping the agents do not need to wear hot and uncomfortable protective clothing, while those who are attacked must do so. If the Iraqis are denied air superiority, they could alternatively fire the chemical agents in artillery shells.

To stand any chance against chemical weapon attack, military personnel deployed in the Gulf will need to wear a protective suit, a respirator, inner and outer gloves, and boots. All British troops are trained in the use of such equipment, but dislike it because of the heat and discomfort, which is likely to be severe in the Gulf.

The object of the protective suits is to prevent the inhalation of chemical agents and contact with the skin. The

eyes, nose, throat, chest and respiratory system must all be protected. In the case of nerve agents, it is possible to take medical pre-treatments to reduce the effects, and some protective suits are fitted with auto-injectors which automatically detect the presence of the agents and inject the wearer with the drug atropine, which counters the effect of the nerve agents in the bloodstream.

Without such protection, nerve agents such as sarin, developed in Germany during the 1940s, quickly attack the central nervous system, causing breathing problems, vomiting, convulsions and death. Inhaling a concentration of just one tenth of a gram per cubic metre of air will incapacitate the victim in one minute, and kill in two.

Mustard gas causes burns, blisters and blindness if allowed to penetrate protective clothing. While ground-based forces are aware, at least in principle, of the dangers of chemical weapons, naval vessels could also be vulnerable in the narrow waters of the Gulf. Some are fitted with air filtration systems but it is not clear how effective these would prove in combat, and there is a danger that the closed air-circulation systems in ships could be effective in distributing the poison to the crew.

Iraqi Kurds, attacked by President Saddam with chemical weapons, claim that the Iraqi leader has also used biological agents against them, including typhoid and cholera "bombs" dropped from aircraft. But in battlefield conditions such primitive biological weapons would be unlikely to prove effective.

From Iraq's point of view, however, the situation for the deployment of chemical weapons could hardly be more favourable.

The US forces in Saudi Arabia will be isolated from centres of civilian population, making them easy targets. Any retaliation in kind by the US troops against Iraqi targets would almost certainly affect non-combatant Kuwaitis, Iraqis, or foreign hostages held by President Saddam. This will make it difficult for the US to threaten Iraq with chemical weapons.

Paul Spedding, of Kleinwort Benson, says only a small proportion of the lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies could be replaced in the short term. Non-Arab Opec producers, such as Venezuela, are also not inclined to break their cartel quotas. Non-Opec producers such as Canada, the United States and Mexico, which exports 1.2 million barrels per day, are already up to their full short-term capacity, since they are not constrained by quotas. Production from the North Sea is temporarily depressed by summer maintenance work, and there are fears that the continuing industrial action there could hit supplies.

While Opec output has risen for most of the year, total non-Opec production has

fallen. Second-quarter non-Opec output was about 32.8 million barrels per day, 320,000 barrels per day less than the first quarter. In three months, the equation may be

different. Spare production capacity, including smaller non-Opec producers, may be about four million barrels per day. Unfortunately, three-quarters of this would have to

come from Gulf or Arab states. Ian Bourne, of *Petroleum Economist*, suggests that the Saudis could produce an extra two million barrels per day, the United Arab Emirates

Opec states ready to raise output to compensate for loss of supplies

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

MEMBERS of Opec, the cartel of oil-producing nations, yesterday indicated they would be prepared to increase output to compensate for the loss of supplies from Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, United States government sources indicated that they had been working behind the scenes to guarantee world supplies.

Opec states agreed at the end of July, just as Iraqi troops were massing on the Kuwaiti border, to limit oil production to 22.5 million barrels per day. But oil analysts said the latest Opec remarks implied that the producers were willing to dispense with production quotas.

Refiners have rushed to build up stocks of oil in the short term, raising demand above normal against a sharp cut in supply. The immediate impact on prices should be eased somewhat by the release of oil from the American strategic stockpile. Only over a period, therefore, will the true effect of the loss of up to 8 per cent of world oil production emerge. If the embargo on oil from Kuwait and Iraq

continues for months, even years, the main emphasis will be on raising output from other sources. The two countries produce about 4.5 million barrels per day. In practice, somewhat less would be needed to stabilise prices at, say, \$25 (£13) a barrel, since this price would progressively cut demand and since some Iraqi and Kuwaiti production is used at home.

In theory, replacing even four million barrels a day should be easy. In 1979, Opec members alone produced more than eight million barrels per day more than they did in 1989, with Saudi Arabia accounting for almost half the difference.

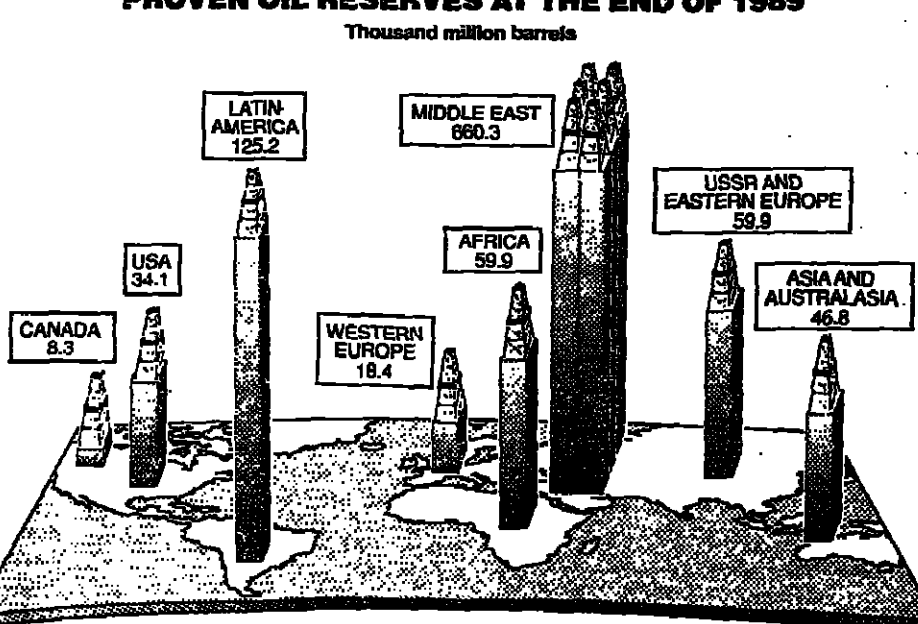
In the early 1980s, the taps could simply have been turned up if producers cared and dared to do so. Apparent surplus capacity has, however, become unusable either because of damage during the Iran-Iraq war, or because of capacity taken out as a result of Opec quotas not being maintained. Over the past few months, Robert Horton, the

chairman of BP, has echoed oil analysts in warning politicians that, even without any political interruptions, there might be a growing shortage of supply in the mid-1990s, and only Opec countries interested in driving up prices would be in a position to meet it.

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PROVEN OIL RESERVES AT THE END OF 1989



fallen. Second-quarter non-Opec output was about 32.8 million barrels per day, 320,000 barrels per day less than the first quarter. In three months, the equation may be

different. Spare production capacity, including smaller non-Opec producers, may be about four million barrels per day. Unfortunately, three-quarters of this would have to

come from Gulf or Arab states. Ian Bourne, of *Petroleum Economist*, suggests that the Saudis could produce an extra two million barrels per day, the United Arab Emirates

up to 600,000 and Libya 300,000. Iran might deliver an extra 200,000 barrels per day. The military threat of Iraq hangs over those who might otherwise be inclined to help.

Most attention will therefore be focused on potential outside the area. Venezuela, which has an Opec quota of less than two million barrels per day, is the prime medium-term hope, thanks to estimated spare capacity of at least 500,000 barrels per day. Nigeria may have similar potential, but estimates of its usable spare capacity range as low as 100,000 barrels per day.

The North Sea producers may raise output by about 300,000 barrels per day from the autumn, partly because Norway has recently lifted curbs on output aimed at supporting Opec's attempts to raise prices. Any extra output from Alaska could take longer.

Even in the longer term, the boycott may not encourage investment in new production facilities in countries such as Mexico, which has plenty of reserves, because it will be seen as temporary, however long it lasts. But the benefits of

the higher oil price to South American, African and Far Eastern producers will provide cash for investment held back by debt and austerity over the past few years.

The enigmatic missing link in the oil equation is the Soviet Union, the world's largest producer. Soviet output is thought to be running at about 11.8 million barrels per day this year, down from 12.8 million barrels per day two years earlier. The decline is due to technical and internal economic problems, rather than to any rundown in reserves. The oil industry believes that Soviet output could be much higher from existing fields, that other fields lack development, and there are far more reserves than the proven 13 years' supply.

How quickly output could be raised, given technical assistance from international oil companies, is the great unknown. Saudi Arabia will remain the key to the market, owning a quarter of the world's known reserves. An open Soviet Union could eventually become the best counterweight to Opec.

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: TENSION IN THE GULF

Saddam sets his nation on road to conflict

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S uncompromising statement yesterday, that it had annexed Kuwait, was couched in language that has convinced many observers that President Saddam Hussein is becoming increasingly unstable and has put Iraq and America on a collision course.

In a deliberate attempt to maximise tension, the Iraqi leader ordered Baghdad radio to trail the annexation announcement repeatedly as a means of securing world attention. In the morning, the programme broke into its normal programmes to say, before the patriotic music began: "All Iraqis, all Arabs everywhere, wait and listen to an important announcement on a great and joyful day in your lives and struggle."

The message of Baghdad's declaration, read on Iraqi television, was clear: there would be no climbdown over last week's blatant seizure of Kuwait.

The Iraqi appeals for Arab unity, ignoring Arab criticism of Iraq's aggression, and told the world: "All navy fleets and squadrons inside and outside the Arab homeland will not shake us."

The provocative announcement came in two parts, the first purporting to be an appeal for a merger from the puppet regime installed by Iraq in Kuwait after the invasion, and the second from the Revolution Command Council that runs Iraq under Saddam's direction.

The command council's broadcast declared "an eternal and comprehensive merger"

between Iraq and Kuwait. "The Revolution Command Council has decided to return the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and the Iraq of its origins," it said in reference to Iraqi claims to Kuwaiti territory dating back before the sheikhdom secured independence from Britain in 1961.

Diplomats who watched the broadcast said later that it demonstrated that President Saddam was determined to use the overthrow of the ruling al-Sabah family as a way of trying to whip up popular support among the Arab public.

The failure of the alleged new rulers of Kuwait to show themselves on the screen reinforced the widespread conviction that they were Iraqi officers installed on Baghdad's orders whose every move was dictated from the Iraqi capital. The Iraqi president had tried to maintain the fiction that they called him in to help them in a coup d'état.

"The Free Provisional Kuwait Government has decided to appeal to the kindfolk in Iraq led by the knight of Asab and leader of their march, President Field Marshal Saddam Hussein," the announcement said.

The provisional government of nine members added that it was appealing to the president "to agree that sons should return to their large family, that Kuwait should return to the great Iraq — the mother homeland — and to achieve complete merger unity between Kuwait and Iraq."

The statement came after the merger of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti currencies and, according to Western observers, appeared to rule out room for compromise by Iraq over the key American demand that Kuwait should be returned to its former rulers.

The statement referred to the struggle of the Palestinians but did not announce any new aggressive moves against Israel which some analysts had been fearing. "Its tone was entirely unrepentant and self-righteous," one envoy said. "In the circumstances, it sounded rather like a declaration of war."

The Iraqi spokesman repeated previous undertakings not to invade Saudi Arabia, claiming that the "merger" was not a precedent and stating that Baghdad had no ambitions on any other territory.

Eleventh-hour attempts led by Egypt and Syria to hold an emergency Arab summit in Cairo today reflected the growing anxiety in Arab capitals. But there appeared little prospect of President Saddam's agreeing to attend or permitting any return to power of the former Kuwaiti ruling family to power.

Combined air power key to halting Saddam

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq could have brushed aside world condemnation of his invasion of Kuwait and attempted to outmanoeuvre the international trade, arms and oil embargo. Now America's military build-up in Saudi Arabia confronts him with the first real deterrent. But will it stop him?

When Pentagon chiefs prepared contingency plans for President Bush, they must have considered the worst possible scenario, which is that President Saddam would order his troops to use nerve gas and other chemical weapons. Yesterday's unconfirmed reports that Iraqi aircraft were seen loading poison gas weapons indicate that the worst scenario may be the one favoured by President Saddam. But he has to take into account the American response.

The combat aircraft and long-range bombers that are being sent to the area can be equipped with tactical nuclear bombs. It seems most unlikely that America would venture into this type of conflict without a nuclear capability. The danger is that President Saddam, having used chemical weapons indiscriminately in the past, against the Iraqis and against the Kurdish community in northern Iraq, may have no compunction in launching such deadly weapons on the forces ranged against him in Saudi Arabia.

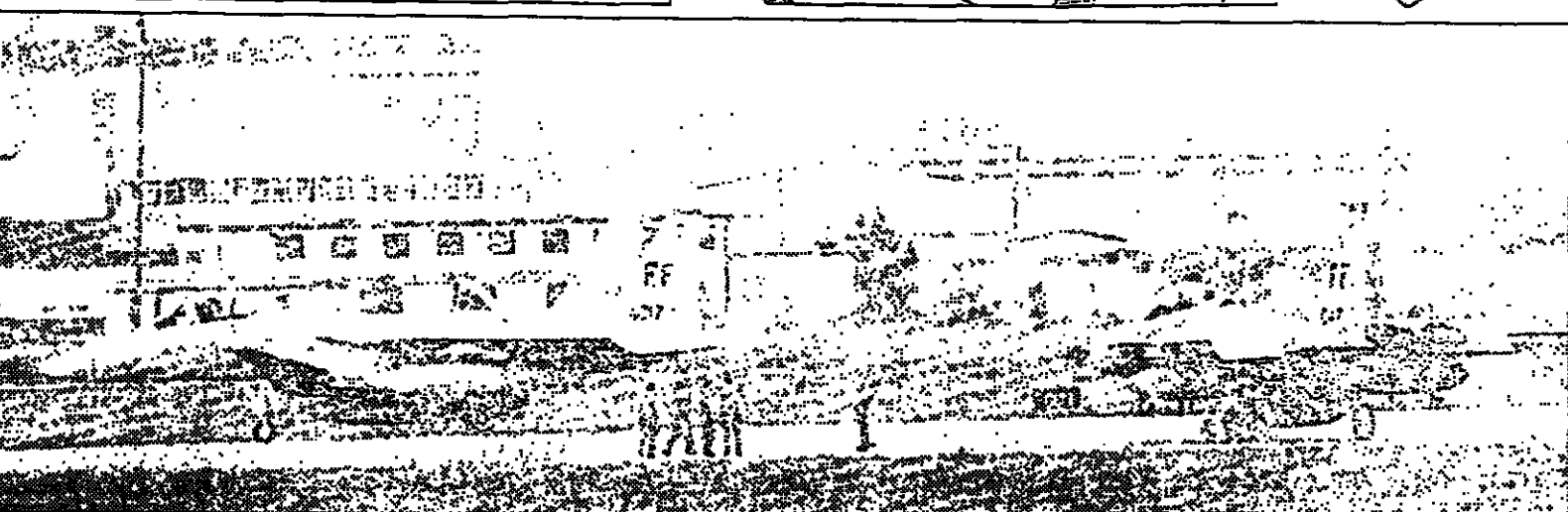
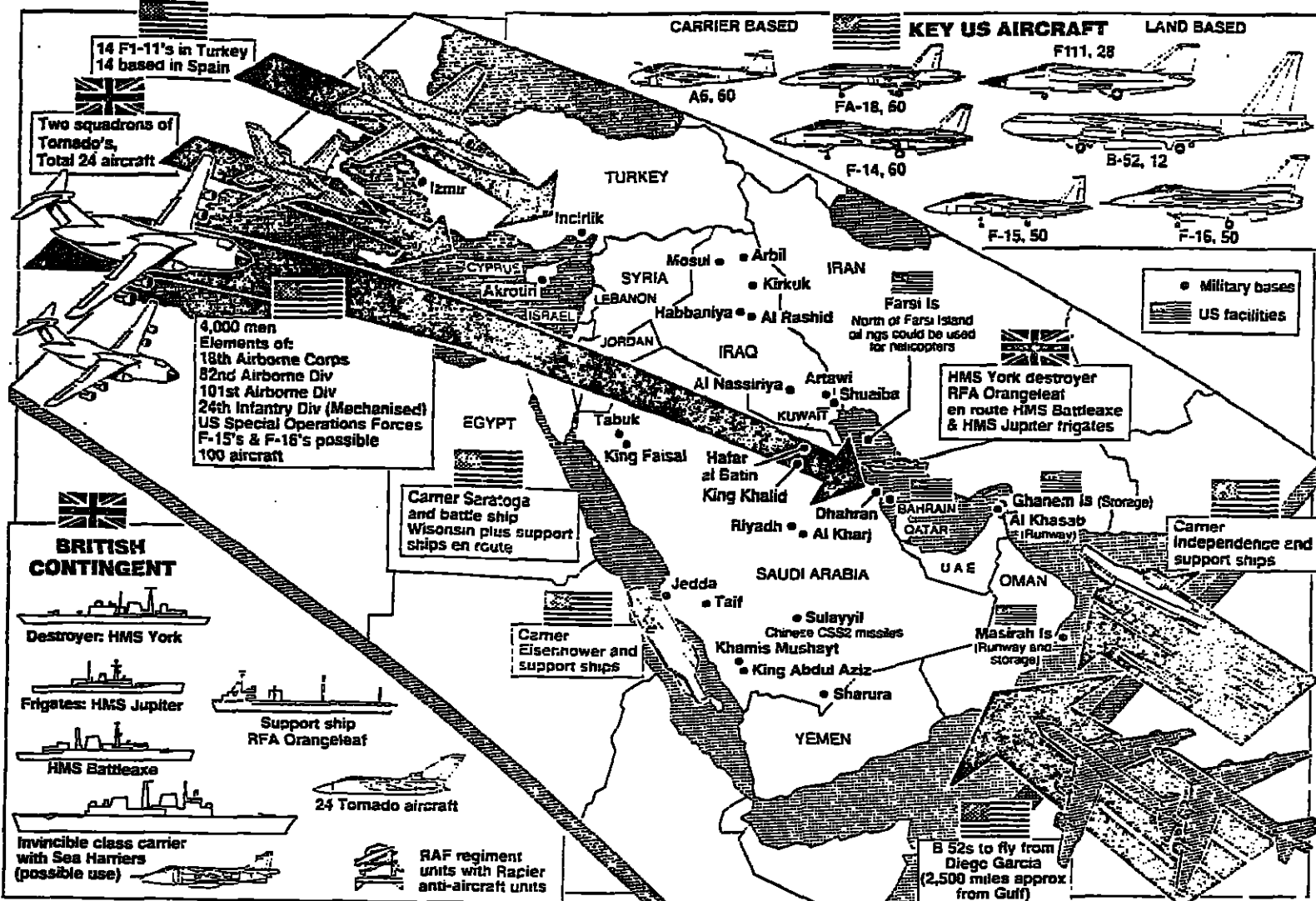
The American combat units arriving in Saudi Arabia, all of which will have to be supplied with NBC kit (nuclear, biological and chemical protective clothing), can be used only to protect the Saudi air bases and other key installations. But the firepower and accuracy of American and Saudi bombers — and the nuclear weapons President Saddam has to believe are on board the aircraft — could be the decisive factor. Potentially, America must have plans to send a vastly increased military presence.

One indicator is the deployment of elements of the 18th Airborne Corps, which is based at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. This is the coordinating headquarters for three American units, the 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 1st Special Operations Command. Elements of all these forces are being sent to Saudi Arabia and, once in place, they could be expanded if necessary.

The 82nd Airborne Division, which has a total of 12,800 men, is divided into three airborne infantry brigades, each with three battalions, and artillery support, consisting of 105mm light guns.

The division is also equipped with high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles with TOW anti-tank missile systems.

"All American", is inscribed on uniform badges, is the main fast-attack division in America, trained to go anywhere in the world. They travel in CSA Galaxy transport aircraft.



F15 jets equipped with external fuel tanks being checked at Langley Air Force base in Virginia before taking off for the Middle East

Their "sister" unit, the 101st Airborne Division, based at Fort Campbell in Kentucky, is the only air assault division in the world. Known as the "Screaming Eagles", the 101st, which is not a jumping parachute division, has three infantry brigades, with a total of nine battalions, each armed with 20 TOW anti-tank weapons.

The brigades are supported by an aviation brigade with Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters for troop transport. It also has 18 Apache and 18 Cobra armour-fighting helicopters, referred to as "tank killers".

The 101st, whose total strength is 15,400 men, is trained for long-range air assault operations deep into the enemy's rear areas to destroy key installations and forces at night, using blacked-out helicopters flown by air crews wearing night vision goggles and in the case of the AH64 Apaches, forward-looking infrared systems.

The 24th Infantry Division (Mechanised), based at Fort Stewart, Georgia, has two active-duty brigades and a third, the 48th Infantry Brigade, which is a National Guard unit. The brigades have a total of ten battalions, five infantry and five armoured. Each armoured battalion has 58 M-1 tanks. Each infantry battalion is equipped with Bradley fighting vehicles, an updated version of the standard armoured personnel carrier. The 24th has a total of 16,600 troops.

The key role is going to be played by the American and Saudi combat aircraft that will be able to achieve air superiority over the Iraqis as well as mount ground attacks. The main air superiority aircraft are the F-15 Eagles and up to 50 of these fighters are being sent to Saudi Arabia. The F-15C, a two-engine aircraft, also capable of ground attack, is the best fighter in the US Air Force. It is large, (spanning more than 42ft), fast, (more than twice the speed of sound)

and manoeuvrable (with a range of 2,878 miles if unloaded but a combat range of about 800 miles). It has a weapon load of 24,500lb. The US Air Force has 642. The Saudis have 42.

John Taylor, editor of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, said yesterday that the F15 should be able to take on the Soviet MiG 29 Fulcrums, which have been supplied to the Iraqis in the past 12 months. America is also sending F16 Fighting Falcons, whose main role will be as a close-range defence fighter, protecting the Saudi air bases. It has a combat radius of 575 miles and can carry 12,000lb of bombs and other weapons. The US Air Force has 1,083.

The two heavyweight aircraft sent to confront the Iraqis are the mighty B52s and F111s. The B52s, which are expected to be flown from Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, have a range of more than 7,500 miles. They can carry nuclear-tipped cruise missiles and conventional bombs, ranging from 500-pounders to 20,000-pounders. The B52, with a crew of six, drops its 30-ton bomb load, from an operating altitude of between 30,000ft and 36,000ft. It has a maximum speed of 595mph and will need an escort of F15s to fight off Iraqi interceptors.

The F111s, also nuclear-capable, are not as good as the RAF Tornados, which are being sent to the Gulf. But they are effective and are armed with precision-guided weapons, with a total bomb payload of nine tons. Fourteen F111Ds, normally based at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, have been sent to the American base at Incirlik in Turkey.

Another 14 F111s are in Spain, which gave permission yesterday for American forces bound for Saudi Arabia to use its military facilities. The F111s, used by America to bomb the Libyan capital of Tripoli in 1986, have a range of more than 2,900 miles. To support American

ground and air operations over Saudi Arabia, there are now two aircraft carrier groups in the Gulf area, a third on the way, and a group of eight naval ships inside the Gulf. Each of the three carriers — the USS Independence, the command attack carrier, on station outside the Strait of Hormuz, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, the nuclear-powered vessel on her way through Suez to take up position in the Red Sea, west of Saudi Arabia, and the USS Saratoga, with a large escort group including the battleship, USS Wisconsin, in the Atlantic and due in the Mediterranean in about ten days — has 60 combat aircraft.

They are the FA18 Hornet, a twin-engine, single-seater, which has a combat radius of 662 miles and a weapons load of 17,000lb; the F14 Tomcat, a fighter designed to win air superiority over the fleet, with a maximum range of 2,000 miles and a weapons load of 14,500lb; and the A6 Intruder, an all-weather aircraft with electronic equipment to enable it to seek out targets at night and in bad weather, and with a range of 1,100 miles and a bomb load of 18,000lb. All three carriers have 20 of each plane.

But the Iraqi invasion force of about 100,000 men and 350 tanks, in Kuwait, can be moved out only if there is a direct ground-force confrontation with the Americans, backed by multinational forces. If Iraq were to invade Saudi Arabia with all its mobilised forces — more than a million men — the Americans would have no choice but to move in troops from Western Europe.

America could launch air strikes on Iraqi oil fields and other industrial targets, in an attempt to destroy the country's economy or bomb troop supply lines in southern Iraq, to isolate the occupation force in Kuwait.

There was no rush yesterday by Jordanians or Palestinians to join President Saddam's allegedly volunteer "popular army" in occupied Kuwait, despite the fervour of young Palestinians.

Although Jordan has not recognised the new "Republic of Free Kuwait" or its Iraqi-installed puppet regime, relations are said to be tense between Jordanian diplomats and the Jordanian government following King Hussein's praise of President Saddam as an "Arab patriot".

"I believe Saddam Hussein is a man who has gone through a very difficult experience, who managed to hold his country together for over eight years of war, who believes in the Arab world and seeks to serve it," King Hussein said this week. Yesterday the *Jordan Times* echoed the official view, noting that "President Saddam is not a new Hitler nor is he a loose tiger. He is an Arab patriot, whose higher ideal is the service of the Arab peoples and their interests."

Attempts to destabilise President Saddam would backfire, the paper declared. "All Arabs would come to Iraq's help if it was attacked by the US, Israel or any other foreign power. Those Arabs who acquiesce in such aggression will be doomed."

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It must have been a dramatic scene in the majlis when the king sat surrounded by his advisers and told them of the arguments and assurances put forward by the American defence secretary who was visiting him on behalf of President Bush. The advisers, having said their piece earlier, would have listened and waited for the fateful decision. Finally, it came. Not perhaps a democratic process in the Western sense of the word; but not so very different from what in this case has happened in Washington and London.

That attachment has been criticised. The Americans, largely because of their support for Israel, have not always been popular in the kingdom. But King Fahd seems to have held consistently to the view that in the last resort the United States was Saudi Arabia's most reliable and most effective support. Today it looks as if he has been proved right.

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Sir James Craig is a former British ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd: final decision to involve US rested with him

British refugees arrive in Jordan

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN AMMAN

MORE than twenty dishevelled and rather bewildered Britons arrived here last night, one of the small groups of foreigners who have made the overland journey from Iraq to Jordan in the past two days.

The British refugees were met by an army of British journalists assembled in Amman to report on what they believed would be a flood of British and other refugees. But there was no sign of any large-scale exodus from Iraq, despite earlier indications from Jordanian officials that the Iraqi authorities would allow hundreds, if not thousands, of foreigners to leave.

Earlier this week, Iraq and its puppet regime in Kuwait indirectly threatened the well-being of foreign citizens by suggesting that they would be held as hostages if the West imposed economic sanctions. The promise of open borders appeared to reduce this threat. But it emerged yesterday that Iraq was allowing out only those who already possessed exit visas.

A group of nine West German businessmen also arrived yesterday after a 20-hour journey by bus. "It was very tiring. We are smelly and tired and we need showers," one of them said. He said there had been many roadblocks along the way, but they had been allowed to pass. He said the group had organised the 600-mile journey itself.

The only mass exodus yesterday was of Egyptian workers fleeing from Kuwait across Saudi Arabia. Relations between Egypt and Iraq are tense, and many Egyptians working in Iraq and Kuwait fear they will be the target of Iraqi hostility. Egyptian diplomats said that about 3,000 Egyptian workers had arrived at the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba. The exodus had been "completely chaotic", envoys said.

Two Iraqi Airlines aircraft have reached Amman carrying a number of Japanese and European refugees. But a camera crew from Sky Television was detained yesterday and had its film confiscated when it tried to interview French refugees. Officials said the flight from Baghdad to Amman had not officially existed.

Italian diplomats later said that Iraqi troops had turned back at least one convoy of eight to ten cars which had tried to enter Jordan from Iraq. This group was obliged to return to a hotel in Baghdad.

There was no sign that any of the hundreds of foreigners who were rounded up in Kuwait City this week and taken to Baghdad had been among the trickle of refugees arriving in Jordan.

Jordan warns of Arab backlash as US intervenes

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN AMMAN

JORDAN yesterday warned the United States that military intervention would provoke a "serious backlash of Arab public opinion". Arab states which had previously condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait would swing behind the Iraqi president as a self-proclaimed leader of the Arab nation fighting Western domination.

But Crown Prince Hassan, speaking on behalf of the ruling Hashemite monarchy, insisted that Jordan was "neutral" in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict and denied that Jordan would send troops to help Iraq if war broke out.

Troops and police in Jordan have been placed on high alert. Many foreigners are quietly packing bags and making discreet arrangements to leave property in local hands "in case the balloon goes up", as one American businessman put it.

Many of Jordan's large Palestinian population hope a *jihad*, or holy war, led by President Saddam Hussein would obliterate Israel and re-establish a Palestinian state. "We think what Saddam Hussein did was right," said Moussa, a chemical engineering student, aged 18, whose parents fled to Jordan from Ramla in what is now Israel. "Palestinians in Kuwait were

treated like second-class citizens, and the ruling family there was corrupt."

Another Palestinian boy said angrily: "When the United States invaded Panama, nobody asked why. When asked if Iraq might attack Israel, his eyes lit up. 'We would all rush to join the Iraqi army to fight Israel.'"

At the royal palace, Crown Prince Hassan appeared dejected by the latest events. He said Jordan remained convinced that Saudi Arabia had no intention of cutting the flow of Iraqi oil through the pipeline running from Iraq to the Saudi Red Sea coast. "Those egging the situation on

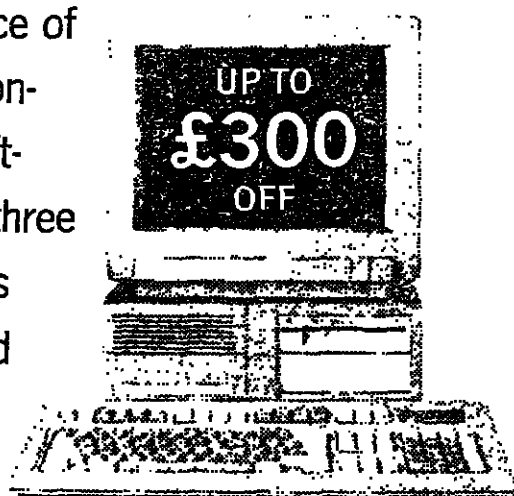
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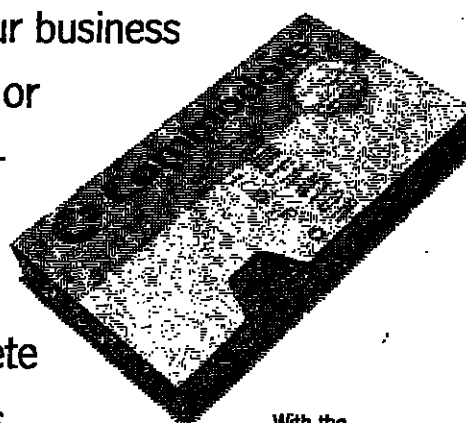
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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: BRITAIN

Hurd rules out recall of MPs as tension rises

By PHILIP WEBSTER and ANDREW McEWEN

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday ministers saw no grounds for a recall of Parliament because of the rising tension in the Gulf.

Speaking after the Downing Street meeting to discuss developments, Mr Hurd rejected any idea that the government accepted the occupation of Kuwait as a fait accompli. "Far from it," he said. "We are announcing a contribution to deterring an Iraq attack either on Saudi Arabia or on the other threatened states in the area." The UN Security Council resolution made clear that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait.

Questioned about the nature of Britain's contribution, Mr Hurd said it was too early to be specific. "That is what will be discussed with our allies, with the Saudis and possibly with other Gulf states," he said.

Tom King, defence secretary, speaking after Mr Hurd, said: "We want to ensure the contribution we make is one that is effective, in line with the contribution being made by the United States and will complement what the Saudi government and the Saudi forces are capable of themselves." Mr Hurd said the government was "talking essentially of naval forces and air forces".

The foreign secretary said he had sent a message to the Iraqi foreign minister reminding him of the responsibility of the Iraqi government for the safety of British citizens in Iraq and Kuwait so long as Kuwait was under Iraqi military occupation.

He said Britain's ambassador in Kuwait had arranged for wives and dependants of the liaison team to move from

their campment to a hotel in Kuwait where he hoped they would be safer and more comfortable.

"We are taking various other diplomatic steps with our friends and allies to try to ensure the safety and evacuation of as many of our citizens from Kuwait and Iraq as we can," he said.

The question of evacuation through Jordan was being considered and being tried but with no great success. Mr Hurd said Kuwait airport so that Western citizens, including British, who wish to leave Kuwait could do so.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said Labour would endorse the deployment of British naval and air units in support of threatened states and in support of the UN resolution. "The Labour party believes that a UN naval force should blockade oil supplies from Iraq and Kuwait in the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. We would very much welcome a proposal by the British government that such a UN force should be set up and that Royal Navy units should be a key element in that force."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Britain should be influencing its European neighbours to support the action as soon as possible. "Meanwhile it is appropriate and right that Britain has offered assistance — that reflects both our special interest in the Gulf area and the need to 'internationalise' the UN action without delay."

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, said: "It is extremely important that Britain's contribution to the multinational force is seen at



Downing Street talks: Cabinet members leaving the committee meeting on the Gulf yesterday included (from left) Sir Geoffrey Howe, Cecil Parkinson and John Wakeham



all times to be a defensive contribution to defend Saudi Arabia at the request of King Fahd. "President Mubarak's talk of massive retaliation against Iraq is premature and likely to damage the Security Council consensus on an embargo on all trade with Iraq and Kuwait."

The announcement by Mr King of the dispatch of a British force to the Gulf as part of a multi-national force to protect Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states will involve it in greater military and diplomatic risks than at any time since the Falklands war. Although it took part in mine-sweeping work in the Gulf during the 1980-8 Iran-Iraq war, its profile was lower and only the small Armilla Patrol was at risk of being attacked.

An Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia or the other states could involve British servicemen in a direct combat role. While President Bush and British ministers emphasised yesterday that the force would have a purely defensive role, that did not mean that any fighting would be left entirely to Saudi forces.

Mr Hurd said that tension was very high. He emphasised that the aim of the British contribution was to deter an attack but left no doubt that British forces would not simply be there to guard installations.

"What we are concerned with is the need to deter Saddam Hussein in case he should be tempted to attack other Gulf states," he said. "We certainly wish to persuade Iraq to move out of Kuwait. She cannot sell her oil; we hope we will soon be in a position to prevent her importing the goods which she needs, including food. These should be powerful acts of persuasion. We have never ruled out other measures if those do not work."

The diplomatic risks for Britain's relations with the Arab world are considerable. Libya sought yesterday to arouse anti-Western feeling in Arab capitals, arguing that the intervention was an interference in Arab affairs.

Washington and London hope that there will be at least some involvement by Egyptian and Moroccan forces to counter that argument. They

also believe that some Arab leaders will be relieved by the moves, even if they do not say so.

Western diplomats pointed out that similar objections were raised when the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and others sent vessels to the Gulf to keep it open to shipping during the Iran-Iraq war. The complaints subsided when it became clear that these forces were playing a useful role.

Margaret Thatcher had a telephone conversation with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia before the decision was announced. Britain sent a message to the Soviet Union soon afterwards explaining its decision, clearly hoping that Moscow would not be unsympathetic.

Mr Hurd said he was "very glad and slightly surprised" that Moscow had voted in favour of the UN Security Council resolution calling for economic sanctions. "It amounts to quite a turnaround in Soviet policy and I pay tribute to their courage," he said. "I don't know how much further they will want to

go at this stage, but certainly we intend to keep them very closely informed."

The government has been disappointed by the unwillingness of King Hussein of Jordan to condemn the invasion of Kuwait, but at the same time recognises that he is in a difficult position. He has had meetings with Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street more regularly than any other Middle East leader over the past decade.

The government is expected to decide in the next 48 hours what types of aircraft and which squadrons to send to the Gulf. If troops are sent their role will be to protect aircraft and airfields. By the time the Royal Naval Force has assembled in the Gulf the government expects to have decided whether, together with the US, to undertake a naval blockade immediately. The initial signs are that the Security Council resolution will prove almost completely effective in stopping Iraq's oil exports without the need for military enforcement.

If a blockade is started its role will be primarily to prevent Iraq importing food.

British bases on Cyprus to play key role

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MILITARY preparations being made by the West have highlighted the strategic importance to Britain of its two large sovereign bases in Cyprus, tucked away under Nato's southern flank at the gateway to the Middle East.

Their prime importance will be to help to evacuate nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, and to act as a staging post and supply base for aircraft or warships on their way to the Gulf, although they do possess a potential strike force.

Last night a squadron of 12 RAF Tornado F3 fighter jets was in Cyprus with a second expected in the next few days as Britain announced it would join the multi-national military effort in the Gulf.

The sprawling air base at Akrotiri, near Limassol on the southern coast, hosts regular training detachments of Phantom fighters, ground-attack Jaguars and Nimrod sea surveillance planes. The Tornado jets in Cyprus yesterday were on such a routine mission.

The combined British headquarters at nearby Episkopi, where the Army keeps a battalion. A second is posted at Dhekelia, 60 miles to the east, making a total of more than 4,000 troops, 1,500 of whom are the rest of the soldiers. Since the weekend, an undisclosed number on leave were recalled to Cyprus.

American U2 spy planes have permission to make daily flights from Akrotiri to monitor defence lines in the Golan Heights and Sinai, and they can also glean invaluable intelligence about movements in the Gulf.

Reports from Turkey that

F111 strike bombers were on exercise there suggested that the United States does not need the facilities in Cyprus. The US Sixth Fleet, however, was conducting full military manoeuvres between Cyprus and Egypt yesterday.

There have been rumours that Britain is sending in SAS troops. They would reinforce the permanent presence the SAS has kept in Cyprus since the kidnap of Terry Waite in case an opportunity arose to rescue the Western hostages.

If Britain considers any offensive military action against Iraq, it is unlikely to originate from the bases as this could cause problems with Cyprus's friendly and lucrative relationship with the Arab world. It could also invite retaliatory terrorist attacks against the bases which are soft targets.

Some 7,000 dependants live on the bases. The wives of two servicemen were wounded in an attack by a pro-Libyan group in 1986, three months after Britain allowed the US to use bases in England to attack Libya. Logistical support from the bases, however, could be invaluable, especially as the island is a prime centre for military intelligence gathering.

At Ayios Nikolaos in the Troodos Mountains, the 9th Signals Regiment operates a field intercept station for GCHQ, Cheltenham.

Together with a big surveillance radar on the peak of Mount Olympus, its brilliant radar receivers pick up military and diplomatic signals from countries in the region, including Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Britain protests at Iraqi soldier's rape of hostess

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE rape of a British Airways air hostess by an Iraqi soldier in Kuwait shortly after the invasion led to a formal protest yesterday by the Foreign Office to the Iraqi embassy in London.

The air hostess had been taken into Kuwait city last Friday with passengers and crew from BA flight 149, which was trapped on the tarmac after it stopped to refuel en route to Kuala Lumpur. The Pakistani air hostess was attacked on a bus as passengers and crew were being transferred from one hotel in the city to another.

The soldier, who was brandishing a rifle, raped her in spite of the protests of passengers and he threatened to shoot one crew member who tried to intervene. The outrage was reported yesterday by Jameel Alsane, managing director of the Regency Palace hotel in Kuwait, when he arrived in Britain from Bahrain.

He said that the woman was attacked after the airline's passengers and crew had been split into three groups. Some of them were transferred from his hotel to the SAS hotel, also in the city.

Mr Alsane, who fled Kuwait two days ago with two sisters and five children, said that a Lebanese crew member pleaded with the soldier to show the woman mercy. "The soldier took his gun and said: 'One move, and I'll blow you up.'"

The rest of the soldiers were laughing. The other bus passengers fled into the SAS hotel lobby. The woman was later released and seen by a doctor who had been smuggled in to the hotel.

Mr Alsane said: "The woman was terrified, and so were some of the passengers. It was a dreadful experience for her. We kept the doctor until the hotel was evacuated. He took care of the crew, passengers and children, some of whom were suffering from fever in the heat."

The Foreign Office investigated the report before lodging a protest with the Iraqi authorities in Baghdad as well as with the Iraqi embassy in London.

The jumbo jet is still on the ground at Kuwait. British Airways confirmed that 295 passengers were safe and well in hotels in Kuwait, as well as the crew.

Another 36 passengers have been taken to Baghdad, though they, too, are said to be well cared for. A further 36 passengers remain unaccounted for, but these are believed to be Kuwaiti nationals who did not catch the flight.

Mr Alsane said that the Iraqis faked a withdrawal from Kuwait, by stealing Kuwaiti tanks, painting them in Iraqi colours then driving them away. He said: "The soldiers took off their uniforms, put on civilian clothes and drove off in stolen cars."



Brian Hume after his escape: 'I just hopped in a taxi. It was as simple as that'

Taxi ride for first over border

From A CORRESPONDENT IN AMMAN, JORDAN

BRIAN Hume, a businessman from Southampton, was believed to be the first foreigner to leave Baghdad across the border on Tuesday night. He said he had "no problem whatsoever" during his 19-hour overland trip.

Mr Hume, aged 53, operates a freight business based in Amman. He was on a business trip to Erbil, in northern Iraq, when Iraq sent its troops across the border to Kuwait.

"When I returned to Baghdad, I spent some time with friends and then simply took a cab and asked to be driven to the border. It was as simple as that," he said.

"On my arrival at the Iraqi border post of Rutbah, a surprised Iraqi civilian told me 'How did you get here? Foreigners are not allowed to leave'. But the Iraqi border officials gave me no trouble. They stamped my passport and waved me on. It was all very nice, actually, I quite enjoyed it, no hassle whatever."

Mr Hume said it was only after he arrived in Amman that he realised there was an international crisis. "Everything was perfectly normal in Baghdad, no excitement, no fear or anything, although there was a lot of military presence," he said.

"This is what I can't understand. They are just normal people."

BAe ready to fly out families

By PETER DAVENPORT

BRITISH Aerospace has chartered a fleet of civil aircraft to evacuate the families of its workers based in Saudi Arabia as fears of a military offensive by Iraq heightened yesterday.

The company has some 3,000 workers and 1,200 dependants in the country, mainly at the Saudi air force bases at Dhahran, Riyadh and Khafji. Wives and families on leave in the UK are being advised not to return and only essential personnel are being flown to Saudi Arabia.

A 24-hour communications centre linked to the company's Saudi headquarters in Riyadh has been opened at British

Aerospace's establishment at Warton, in Lancashire. A company spokesman there said yesterday: "We have set up three hotlines on which people concerned for relatives in Saudi Arabia can make contact, and we have been getting many calls."

Most BAe staff in Saudi Arabia are engaged on the al-Yamamah project, under which they work on the maintenance and supply of a range of aircraft as well as on training Saudi personnel.

The company has had a long relationship with Saudi Arabia since the 1960s, when it supplied Lightning aircraft. The present £5 billion contract

is for 72 Tornados, most of which have been supplied.

The company said that the chartered aircraft would be used to evacuate dependants based in the Eastern Province, the area closest to the Gulf and the border with Iraq, who had chosen to return.

It said: "The company is allowing wives and dependants from other locations where British Aerospace has bases to leave the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia if they wish, either by chartered aircraft or by scheduled flight at the company's expense."

It is expected that the first of the families will return to Britain in the next few days.

Nerve-centre hunts for clues about air passengers

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

AT 7am yesterday the chief executive of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall, walked into a large, windowless basement in a Heathrow office block. Over the last six days the room has become the nerve-centre of a complex international operation to discover the whereabouts and condition of more than 400 passengers and crew who were caught up in the Kuwait invasion.

Within hours of communications being cut with flight BA149 from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, via Kuwait and Madras, dozens of staff were drafted in to man the Operations Control Intelligence Centre. The centre is run by Ron Lindsay, manager of operations contingency and control, whose constant watch is that he never has to work "for real".

Since the Iraqi invasion, however, he and Tim Phillips, the deputy marketing director, and Dick Wyatt, the general operations manager, have been working 24 hours a day in

a operation that could rival some of the most sophisticated spy networks in the world.

Using telex links, worldwide airline contacts built up over years and covert communications, they have now accounted for 331 passengers and 77 crew members. The location of 36 passengers are still unknown, but the operations intelligence staff believe they are Kuwaiti nationals who are now safely at home and who never joined the regular flight to Kuala Lumpur and Madras as intended.

The British Airways Boeing 747 jumbo jet left Heathrow at 18.05 GMT on Wednesday night for the 17-and-a-half hour flight to Kuala Lumpur. Shortly after midnight Captain Richard Brunyate routinely contacted, on a secure radio link, the British Airways jumbo jet which had left Kuwait an hour before and was heading towards London. There was still no indication that this was to be anything other than a routine flight.

One hour earlier, however, Iraqi tanks had crossed the border with Kuwait and were heading towards

the airport. The staff working at the operations control centre still do not know why neither the Foreign Office nor any other intelligence agency told them that trouble was brewing at the destination airport.

At 01.13 GMT Captain Brunyate brought the aircraft to a halt in the sweltering heat of Kuwait and the passengers disembarked for what was intended to be an hour's stop-over before setting off for Madras.

At 02.05 the passengers, who were still unaware of the momentous events which were taking place just a few miles to the north, began boarding the aircraft ready for take-off. Captain Peter Clark, who replaced Captain Brunyate, his co-pilot, flight engineer and cabin crew of 14, began making the preliminary checks ready for departure. Suddenly, the captain saw what he assumed to be a strafing raid by fighter bombers over the runway right in front of his aircraft.

The staff at the operations intelligence unit in London now believe that this was chaff thrown out by the jets to ward off any defending

missiles, but the effect was the same — an immediate order to abandon the planned take-off and to take the passengers back into the terminal. The airport was closed at 02.15 GMT and no direct information has been received about the aircraft or crew since.

The intelligence unit has now established, through painstaking detective work, that they were taken to three hotels in Kuwait where they joined 60 other British Airways crew who were either planning to take British Airways aircraft on from Kuwait or to return to London.

After a confusing 24 hours, the BA crew decided the time had come to take some kind of action to look after their passengers. A cricket match was arranged and the tennis courts were cleared for an impromptu game of football, held under the noses of the Iraqi soldiers who were taking people by bus from one hotel to another and, as is now known, raping one of the crew members.

Rumours had begun circulating by the weekend that all the pas-

sengers and crew had been taken to Baghdad, but this is now known to be untrue.

Ninety people, mainly Australians and British, were told to pack their bags and get onto buses which then headed out across the desert to the Iraqi capital. Of these, 36 were from the British Airways jet.

As the intelligence centre gleaned information, details were passed through a connecting door to the Emergency Procedures Information Centre. Here volunteers manned a giant revolving drum with details of each passenger and handled calls from anxious relatives, telling them whatever they knew and trying to assure them that all was as well as possible under the circumstances.

The intelligence centre was last used when the bolts blew out of the BAC 1-11 window in June and the pilot was sucked onto the nose cone. It was also used by British Midland for the M1 disaster and by Pan-Am after the Lockerbie bombing. British Airways is hoping that it does not have to be put the centre into operation again for a very long time.

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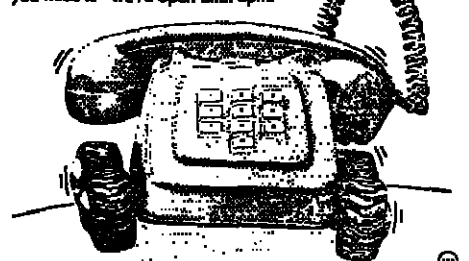
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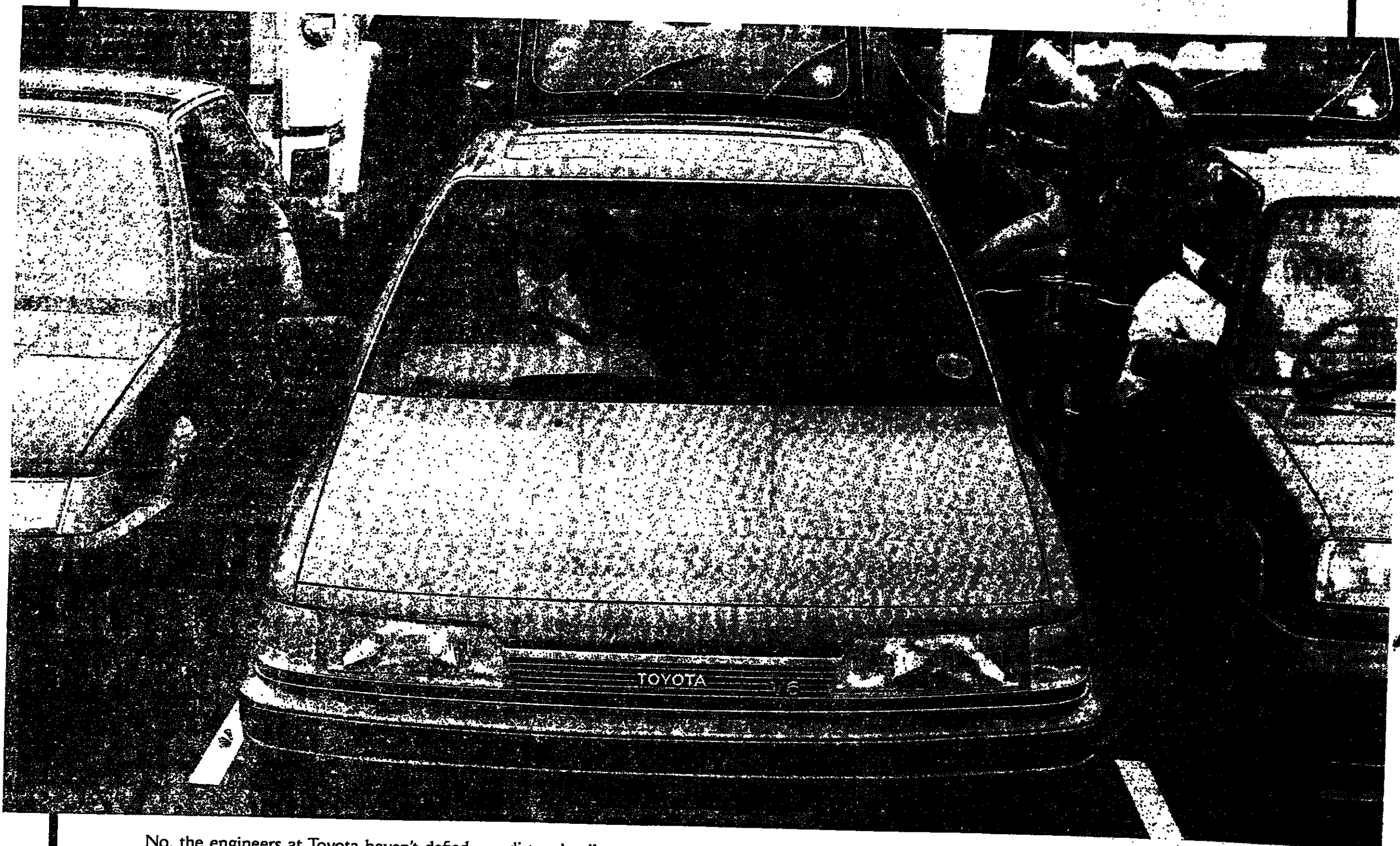
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Sober British are Europe's low-drinkers as tea stays top choice

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITONS are less likely to drink alcohol regularly than citizens of any other important European nation, according to a survey of European drinking habits which is claimed to be the most comprehensive yet.

Mintel, the market research analysts, found that more than a quarter of the British adult population claimed that they would not drink as much as one alcoholic drink a month, compared with a European average of only one fifth claiming to be so abstemious. In West Germany the proportion was only 15 per cent.

Britons' national beverage remains tea of which they drink 232 litres each a year, or about three cups every day. The people of the other six European nations included in the survey drank coffee in greatest volume.

Even Britons drank almost as much coffee (110 litres a head per year, about 1½ cups daily) as beer

(113 litres). In common with the Spanish and Dutch, Britons second most consumed drink was milk. The annual 118 litres per head was overtaken only by the 130 litres of the Dutch.

Mintel says that the European drinks market is worth £225 billion, spent on 204 billion litres. Consumption has increased in all countries over the past five years, with 1989 sales 15 per cent up by volume on those in 1984.

Average daily consumption per person rose from 1.67 litres in 1984 to 1.89 litres in 1989. Mintel believes that increase was due to replacement of tap water with other drinks, a move away from alcohol and toward long drinks, and an increased amount of drinking at home.

It is now the Spanish and Italians who place most faith in their tap water, drinking larger amounts to keep their consumption of other drinks comparatively low. The British distrust their tap water more than anyone but the health-

conscious West Germans, though drinking only 3.4 litres of mineral water each a year, much less than a twentieth of the average consumption in Belgium or West Germany. Soft drinks recorded the greatest growth in all the countries in the survey, up almost a third on average between 1984 and 1989. The increase ranged from 28 per cent in Britain to 36 per cent in Spain.

This success is attributed to health considerations and the use of soft drinks as a replacement for, or mixer with, alcohol. Young people consume soft drinks most and Mintel believes there is room for growth in the market. Current per capita consumption of all soft drinks in Europe is 133 litres a year, equivalent to a third of a litre per head each day.

Hot beverages, predominantly consumed by those in middle age, can expect declining sales in future, Mintel thinks. The volume of consumption increased by an eighth between 1984 and

1989 but the market appears to be saturated. Volume sales of alcoholic drinks declined in Belgium, France and West Germany between 1984 and 1989 and across Europe the increase in consumption was only six per cent. The nations with high per capita consumption of beer, West Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom, showed sales declining or rising by the smallest margins. In countries with high wine consumption beer-drinking was gaining, except in Italy.

Whisky overtook brandy as the spirit consumed in greatest volume, with nearly 300 million litres sold in 1989. Britain remains the largest market but demand is static.

West Germany and Spain account for more than two thirds of the European sales of brandy. Vodka still sells only 53 million litres overall but is growing fast, while gin is thought to suffer from a traditional image.

Attitudes to low and non-alcoholic alternatives

to wine and beer differed between north and south. The Italians and Spanish were most likely to cite health as a reason for drinking them, while driving was more important among the Dutch, Belgians and British.

Britons were the most reluctant to resort to low or non-alcoholic wines and beers. Two fifths of British respondents in a Mintel poll said they would not try them while in Spain and Italy only 3 per cent said they would be unwilling.

Increased sales of low and non-alcoholic beers were credited at the International Hop Growers' Congress in Hereford yesterday with reviving demand for British hops. Peter Davies, a Herefordshire hop farmer, said it took more hops to make the low-alcohol brews and British growers were exporting hops to Germany.

The Drinks Market and the European Consumer (24 volumes, Mintel, 18-19 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9HE, £6,000)

Training councils' autonomy pleas supported by CBI

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday supported the demands of businessmen and women leading the new training and enterprise councils for more autonomy and protection from threatened budget cuts.

Representatives of the councils told Michael Howard, the employment secretary, last month that they were "hungry for signals of the government's commitment" and questioned whether the desire for a world-class workforce had weakened. They gave a warning of the damage which further budget

cuts would cause and put the case for more control over training funds.

Yesterday the CBI appealed to the government to maintain the momentum established by the TECs in developing locally based training agencies. John Cridland, head of training policy, said: "We think that it is desperately important to make the TECs successful and we have made it clear to ministers that funding levels must be maintained and flexibility enhanced."

Minutes of Mr Howard's meeting with the TEC representatives confirmed his willingness to give the councils more room to manoeuvre. At present, a large part of their funds is earmarked for spending on centrally controlled training schemes.

He offered no guarantees on the size of training budgets, which were cut earlier this year and are said to be under further Treasury pressure in the public spending negotiations. The council representatives said that new cuts would have a damaging impact disproportionate to the savings made.

John Troth, who chairs the north-east Wales TEC, said yesterday: "There appears to be real willingness to give us more flexibility to meet local needs. We are anxious not to face substantial cuts in our budgets because that would

make our position very difficult at a crucial time in our development."

A growing number of mature students will take advantage of the government's student loan scheme, according to a new survey, but most remain opposed to the principle of the scheme.

Research from Bristol and Lancashire polytechnics interviewed 145 people on access courses for higher education students who lack formal qualifications, following up a similar study in 1989. More than a quarter said that they would go on to higher education with a loan, compared with only 15 per cent last year.

Although the proportion supporting loans had doubled over the year, this still represented less than 10 per cent. Those aged over 30 and married students were the most likely to be put off higher education by loans.

Asian students were the only enthusiasts for loans, although 11 per cent of all women interviewed were supporters, compared with 3 per cent in 1989. Men, those under 30 and black students were the strongest opponents.

Continuing high recruitment among mature students is central to government plans to expand higher education.

Leading article, page 13

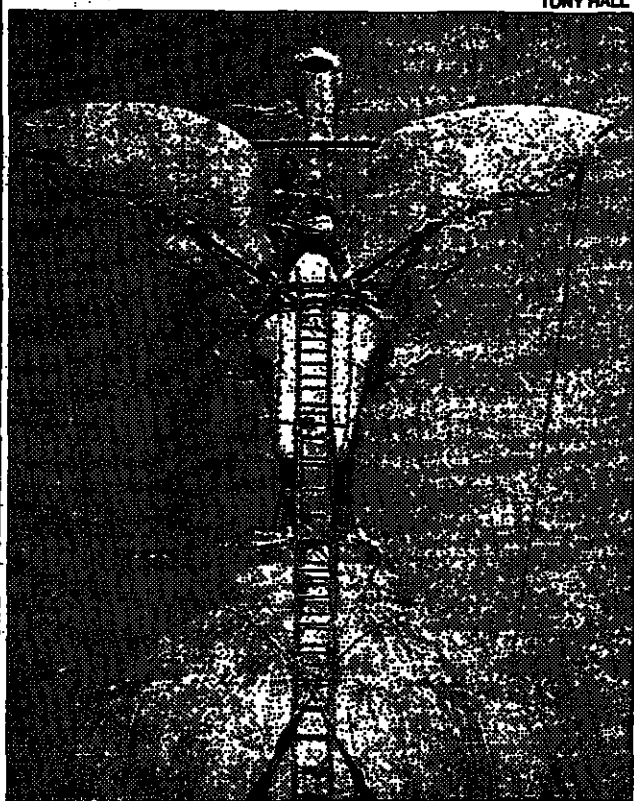
Teachers top unions

A GREATER proportion of teachers, 69 per cent, belong to unions than any other group of workers in Britain (Tim Jones writes). However, with a membership rate of only 14 per cent, sales people are the most reluctant employees to be organised, according to figures in the latest edition of *Employment Gazette*.

The report said that last

year two-fifths of employees belonged to unions or staff associations and full-time employees were twice as likely to be members as part-time staff. However, fewer than one in ten self-employed workers and less than one in twenty on government training schemes had joined. Membership was lowest in East Anglia and highest in Northern Ireland.

TONY HALL



Waiting in the wings: a steeplejack passing during an examination of one of the two copper liver birds which perch more than 300ft up on the twin towers of the Royal

Liver Buildings in Liverpool. The mythical birds with a 12ft wingspan, which are the city's emblem, are checked every few years for structural defects and wear and tear



Neil Goodwin in one of the wards which have had to be closed at St Mary's hospital

Waiting lists will soar as hospital is forced to bar all non-urgent patients

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE reduction of waiting times has gone to the top of the health service agenda and managers risk financial penalties if they fail to show reductions within 18 months. Yet this week one of London's top teaching hospitals stopped all non-urgent admissions for a month, shut 150 beds and cancelled 2,500 operations as part of a package of measures to save £2 million by next March.

The 600-bed St Mary's hospital in Paddington, west London, will close to all but emergency admissions at Christmas and possibly again at the beginning of next year if it is still spending too much money. The result will be soaring lists and longer waits for the 2,500 people needing treatment, lowering staff morale and casting doubt over the hospital's viability under the health service reforms. Neil

Goodwin, the hospital's general manager, is pragmatic about the closures which were forced upon him because of underfunding and pay awards, an increasing workload and an underlying deficit of £1 million. "I don't like doing this and it is very unfortunate that patients will have to wait longer for treatment but I have a responsibility to balance the hospital's books at the end of the year and this was the least damaging option," he said.

"If the financial climate remains the same next year in spite of the health service reforms I am going to have some difficulty meeting the health department's initiative on waiting lists." Last week-end the hospital closed surgical wards, including a paediatric ward, to save £500,000. Part of the savings will come from drugs and dressings and the rest from

staff costs. Doctors and nurses on holiday will not be replaced with locum and agency staff.

Mr Goodwin stresses that the hospital has been treating more patients every year, with an average 20 per cent increase in the last three years, reaching a peak of 34,000 cases. This month's cutback will reduce the workload back to the 1988/89 level, he says.

Three days into the recent closures, the accident and emergency department appears to be bearing the brunt of the reductions. Some patients who would have been admitted for operations in the next four weeks are now appearing instead at the doors of the casualty department.

"If GPs cannot get their patients into hospital for routine operations they are more likely to send their patients to the accident and emergency department," Robin Touquet,

head of the department, said. The emergency team, which sees 150 new patients every day, also has to cope with an increasing number of homeless families who are now being housed in Paddington's many bed and breakfast hotels. Among them are drug addicts and alcoholics.

"August is generally our busiest month because of the tourist season and we are having to keep patients in accident and emergency for far longer than usual while we try to find beds," Mr Touquet said. "Nursing staff are under great stress as they have to monitor, observe and feed patients on hospital trolleys."

He is also concerned that the department has had to close its observation ward which allows 24 hour monitoring before patients are transferred to other hospital wards or sent home. Now, if there are no beds in the hospital, patients who are able to travel are being transferred to the Middlesex and St Charles hospitals.

Wendy Hickey, senior nurse, says that patients are waiting often in great discomfort on the hard trolleys for over nine hours because the hospital is so short of beds. Mrs Hickey says the accident and emergency department will continue to overspend. "The explanations will come later but the patient must come first."

In common with many consultants in London's teaching hospitals Mr Touquet is worried that, under the NHS reforms, districts outside London will stop referring patients to teaching hospitals which have greater overheads than a local district general hospital.

Mr Goodwin says that his main role is to ensure that St Mary's is not the teaching hospital destined for closure which was mentioned in the health department memo leaked to the Labour party yesterday.

Drug task force to be disbanded

A national task force of police and customs investigators set up to combat the spread of crack, the powerful refinement of cocaine, is to be wound up nine months after it began amid evidence that the predicted explosion of crack abuse in Britain has yet to take place (Stewart Tendler writes).

The task force was formed in November last year after a senior American drugs agent from New York warned British police that crack abuse had created millions of addicts within the space of a few years and could easily cross the Atlantic. Ministers and senior officers took the warning seriously and set up the task force.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that analysis of crack seizures by the national drugs intelligence unit showed that the use of the drug was restricted largely to London.

Couple cleared

A couple accused of evicting Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, the former Conservative MP for Belper, Derbyshire, from a flat were acquitted at the Central Criminal Court. Philip Hodgson and his wife Maria denied evicting Mr Stewart-Smith, a bankrupt who owed them £1,500 in rent, from the flat in Piccadilly, London. The ex-MP had complained to Westminster city council.

Canal half open

The Queen reopened the Kennet and Avon canal at a ceremony in Devizes, Wiltshire yesterday, but the drought means half of the 87-mile waterway will stay closed until autumn rains lift water levels high enough to allow boats to pass. Volunteers have spent £2 million restoring the canal, which runs from Reading to Bath and has lain derelict for 40 years.

Dog owner fined

A woman spectator at the recent Badminton horse trials was fined £200 with £30 costs by North Avon magistrates yesterday for leaving her dog in her car during the recent hot weather. Rosemary Hill, of Church Road, Abbots Leigh, Bristol, admitted causing unnecessary distress to the Labrador. The cases of five others were adjourned.

Medals appeal

An appeal has been launched at RAF Coningsby, Lincoln, to raise £20,000 to buy the medals won by Ginger Lacey, the second world war pilot who shot down the Heinkel which bombed Buckingham Palace. Lacey, of Grindale, near Bridlington, shot down 18 German aircraft. He died last year and his medals are to be auctioned next month.

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Takeover of Correspondent fails

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PROSPECTS for the beleaguered *Sunday Correspondent* looked bleak last night after *The Independent* said that it had withdrawn from discussions to buy its title and goodwill.

Its decision comes after three weeks of uncertainty, during which the *Correspondent*'s largest shareholder, the Chicago Tribune newspaper group, negotiated transferring its investment to *The Independent* in a deal which would have involved the takeover and subsequent closure of the *Correspondent*, the loss-making *Independent On Sunday*'s main rival.

"There is certainly no deal between the *Chicago Tribune* and *The Independent*, but relations remain cordial," Andreas

Whittam Smith, editor and founder of *The Independent*, said. He could not rule out a future deal with the *Chicago Tribune*. "This particular episode has come to an end," The *Chicago Tribune* had wanted *The Independent* to suspend its articles of association, which prevent any shareholder from owning more than 15 per cent, so that it could take about 30 per cent.

It was still unclear whether the *Chicago Tribune* would help rescue the *Correspondent* with a fresh injection of finance. Neither it nor *Correspondent* editors would comment last night as a board meeting was convened. The *Guardian*, which owns 16.6 per cent of the *Correspondent*, has refused to put up any more

money. More than a week ago, it had promised about £3 million.

Correspondent staff said yesterday that they fear last week's issue may have been the last. Most expect a statement today. They fear they will not receive any severance pay if the *Correspondent* prints another issue. It is understood the paper has just £500,000 in the bank. It is losing £250,000 a week. Severance pay of at least three months' salary for its 90 full-time journalists alone would approach £750,000.

Nick Scott, the *Correspondent*'s chief executive, said yesterday the breakdown of negotiations with the *Independent* group did not necessarily signal the closure of his paper. "Other options are still available."

Musical called off after race ruling

By SIMON TAFT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Broadway run of *Miss Saigon*, the musical which has taken a record £13 million in advance box office sales prior to its March opening is off after American Equity refused to allow Jonathan Pryce to repeat his award-winning West End role because he is not Eurasian.

Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, has decided to withdraw the show rather than recast. "After a long and emotional debate, the council has decided it cannot appear to condone the casting of a Caucasian actor in the role of a Eurasian," Alan Eisenberg, executive secretary of American Equity, said. "The casting of a Caucasian actor made up to appear Asian is an affront to the Asian community." Mr Mack-

intosh said that suggestions by American Equity that he should take the matter to arbitration were cowardly. He said: "The inaccurate and inflammatory statements which equity has made concerning *Miss Saigon* have served only to create a poisonous atmosphere in which creativity and artistic freedom cannot function or survive. Arbitration cannot clear this atmosphere."

Mr Pryce said that he wholeheartedly supported Mr Mackintosh. He added that advertisements would be appearing in the American press today cancelling the show. "Equity's decision is extraordinary and absurd," Mr Pryce said. "It means that only black actors can play Jewish roles and so forth. I'm Welsh and I've never played a Welshman." Mr Pryce, winner of a Tony Award for a previous Broadway appearance, said that he might never appear there again because of the equity decision.

American Equity's decision has also put it at odds with its British counterpart. "What we find particularly offensive is that this new rule can't apply to their own actors so that Cameron could have hired a white Caucasian American actor for the part and there would have been no complaint," Peter Plouvier, general secretary of British Equity, said. "Reading between the lines, American actors are worried at the success of British musicals over there and British actors in them."

Satanic sex claims 'must be supported by evidence'

By LIN JENKINS

PEOPLE who claim to have been subjected to ritual abuse by members of satanic sex rings have a moral duty to give details to the police, a police specialist in child abuse said yesterday.

Reports of babies being induced and eaten by members of satanic circles and of systematic sexual abuse of children could not be substantiated if witnesses refused to give evidence to the police, Det Chief Insp Stuart Baker, of Scotland Yard's obscene publications branch, said.

He told the International Conference on Incest and Related Matters at Harrow, northwest London, that during his many years in the service he had never come across any evidence of such activities or knew of anyone else who had.

Det Insp Sylvia Aston, of the West Midlands police force's adviser on child abuse and

rape, said it was not surprising that the public was sceptical about such claims if those concerned refused to co-operate.

"There is a group of people going round the country, and indeed the world, making these claims," she said. "If they are true they have a moral duty to give us some sort of evidence."

Sue Hutchinson, a founder of a helpline for those subjected to ritual and satanic abuse, said that victims who have suffered all forms of sexual abuse were too frightened to go to the police.

Norman Vaughan, a Nottingham psychotherapist, claimed that there were 10,000 human sacrifices a year in America, most of them fetuses that had been bred specially. Mrs Aston said that doubtful claims by fringe elements detracted from the real problem of child abuse.

Paedophiles deliberately aimed at single parents as a means of getting to children, Mr Baker said. Most abusers were intelligent and financially secure men who had seduced their victim in very much the same way as a heterosexual man would seduce a girl he met at a disco.

The public perception that child pornography was the product of groups of strangers grabbing children off the streets and forcing them to make videos was a myth, he said.

"In most cases the abuser will have taken steps to get to know the family and be in a position of trust. Paedophiles are highly motivated and very good at singling out children who lack affection and love," he said. Single parents were particularly vulnerable and it could be many years before a woman discovered that her close friend, with whom she had no sexual relationship, was abusing her children.

Typically, a paedophile befriended a child and showed pornographic material in order to convince the child that explicit sex was acceptable. The relationship progressed to sexual activity and taking photographs of the child.

All paedophiles kept large collections of child pornography, Mr Baker said. This often included seemingly innocent photographs of children available in the high street and video clips from television programmes. There was no evidence to suggest that the production of child pornography was a large commercial industry.

"Most child pornography is made at home by the men who require it for their needs. Paedophiles operate in tight knit groups and make contact through low life magazines and swap material. Material sold on the market was usually more than ten years old so the children involved could not be identified, he added.

Rarest bird is hunted by trappers

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TRAPPERS are trying to catch the world's rarest bird, the last remaining Spix's Macaw in the wild, for the black market.

A party of British and Brazilian scientists working in the remote northeast of Bahia state in Brazil have discovered a single Spix's Macaw, a long-tailed blue parrot, alive near the spot where the species was discovered 170 years ago.

The party has reported that the parrot has paired with a single Blue-Winged Macaw, a quite different bird, but that illegal attempts are being made to trap it.

About 15 Spix's Macaws are in bird collections. A single bird sells for up to £30,000 on the black market.

Its preference for a unique type of woodland is thought to have accounted for its original rarity. But there is no doubt that it has been almost wiped out in the wild as a result of the attentions of trappers.

The International Council for Bird Preservation called yesterday for the release into the forest of at least one of the birds in captivity and for the setting up of a species protection centre in north Brazil.

Dr Christoph Imboden, the council's director-general, said: "It is tragic that today, with so much worldwide conservation awareness, it is possible for a unique species like the Spix's Macaw to disappear from right under our noses as a result of illegal actions carried out by well-organised dealers." He said that a number of other birds might soon become extinct for the same reason.

Tunnel acid alert

An alert was issued to trace a lorry leaking hydrochloric acid after five Dartford Tunnel workers collapsed and were taken to hospital yesterday.

The men had inhaled fumes of the acid, which spilt on to the M25 as the lorry stopped at a tunnel toll booth in Kent. The workers were given oxygen before being taken to West Hill Hospital in Dartford. The tunnel was closed for 20 minutes as firemen, wearing protective clothing, cleared the remaining acid on the road.

Gypsy protest

The Commission for Racial Equality has started legal action against Anthony Wray, headmaster of Aylestone High School, Hereford, who objected to plans for a gypsy camp. Mr Wray said he was "horror struck" at the prospect of an influx of gypsies to his school.

Racing charity

Bob Champion, the former jockey and a cancer sufferer, helped to launch RaceAid yesterday to raise money for cancer research over the next 12 months. Top trainers and jockeys have pledged to give 1 per cent of their race earnings to the charity.

Slimming award

Julie Nimmo, aged 26, has won *Slimming* magazine's Slimmer of the Year award after reducing her weight from 19 to 9 stone. The nurse, from Ramsgate, Kent, has won £1,000 and a holiday in Malta.

Peace losses

GEC Avionics in Rochester, Kent, is making 420 engineering staff redundant because of improved East-West relations after the developments in eastern Europe.

Arson death

Bill Webster, aged 61, died in hospital in East Grinstead, West Sussex, 18 hours after his house in Yalding, Kent, was twice attacked by arsonists with fire-bombs.

Driving ban

Mike Hallett, the snooker player, was banned from driving for six months by magistrates in Grimsby, Humberside, after he was stopped for speeding twice in a fortnight. Hallett, who has been stopped five times in three years, was fined £100.

No advertising

Lothian Regional Council has decided to ban all tobacco advertising on its land. The decision, which will mean the loss of £77,000 in advertising revenue, was taken after lobbying by Parents Against Tobacco.

Rail go-ahead

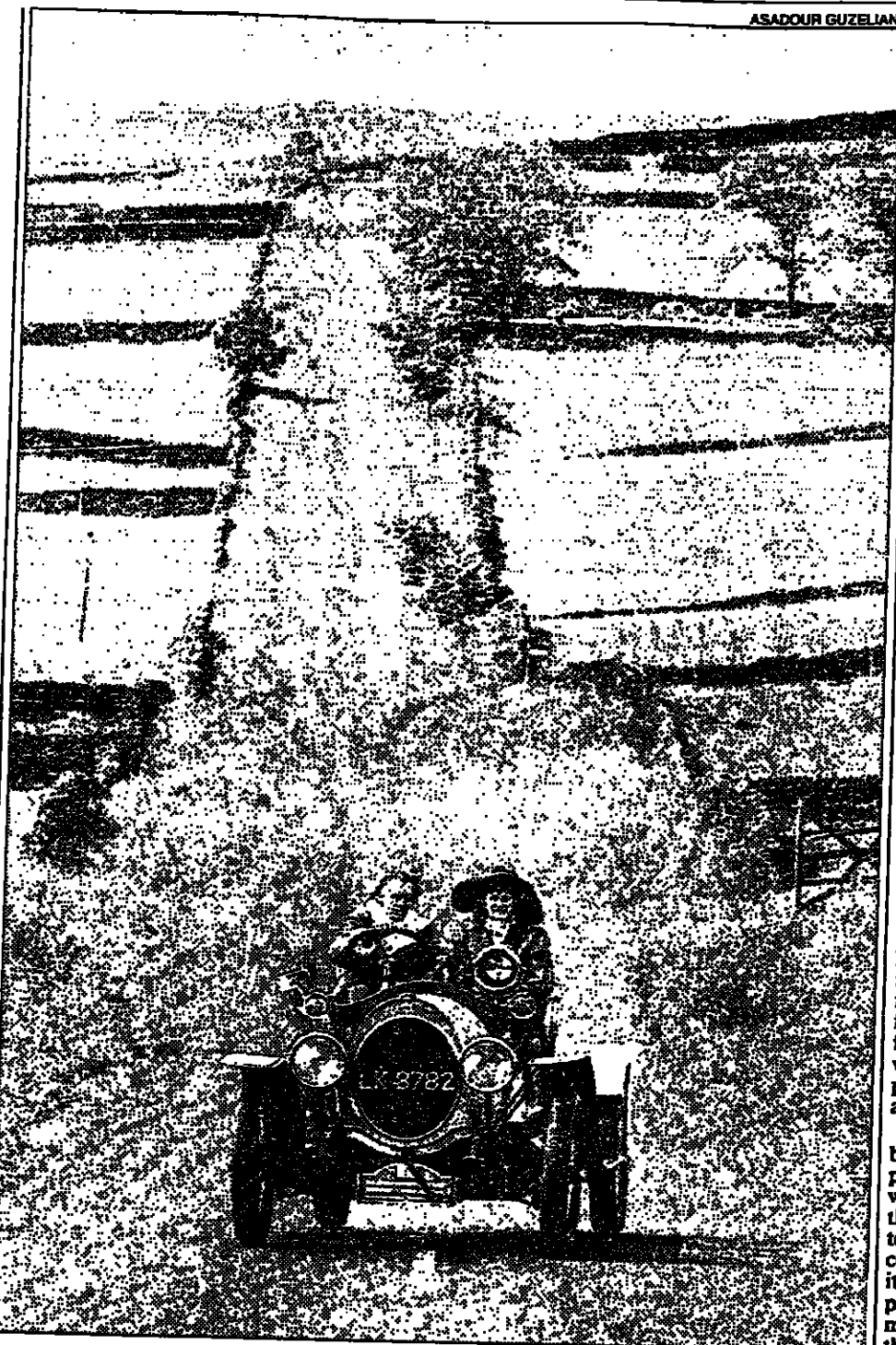
The government has given the go-ahead for an £11 million railway line which will provide a passenger service for Mansfield, Ashfield, Nottingham and Worksop. The line could be finished by 1994.

Surprise haul

Police frogmen who searched the Lams lake in Swindon, Wiltshire, after fears that children had been drowned, have found £2,000 in jewellery and a rusty shotgun. They found no bodies.

Second-best

Police in Lincolnshire are planning to buy eight second-hand cars for surveillance work to help trim the force's budget by the £1.3 million ordered by the Home Office. The force has been given £350,000 to pay for 262 cars.



Two for the road: Geoff and June Tuley driving their 1912 NAG, star of the film *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*, and one of 50 cars, including the Batmobile, taking part in the British Film Rally from Cardiff to Edinburgh

Weather forecaster bets to back his expertise

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A HOT August, a record drought and a white Christmas were yesterday confidently predicted by a man who believes that he has solved one of science's knottiest problems: long-range weather forecasting.

His claims cannot easily be disregarded. In the past two years Piers Corbyn, a lecturer in astrophysics at the Polytechnic of the South Bank, has won more than £5,000 from the bookmakers William Hill by backing his forecasts, at odds set by the London Weather Centre.

Last December, in a forecast published by *The Times* on Boxing Day, he predicted January's storms. He was also right about the frosts in April, the wet and cool June and early July, and the record-breaking August. He now says that the pattern of hot, settled weather so far this month will continue, with the chance of last week's top temperature of 99F being reached again.

Mr Corbyn's predictions have proved so accurate that he is selling them to businesses through a company formed with colleagues. The firm's clients receive forecasts for up to seven months ahead which are used to plan buying policies, distribution plans and advertising campaigns.

Mr Corbyn's method is based on a study of the patterns of the sun's activity, which he believes determine the weather over the medium term in a predictable way. He compares present solar activity with similar activity in the past, and when he finds a match, assumes that the weather will evolve in the same way as it did the last time. The method depends on a long run of records of weather and solar activity, which existed in Brit-

ain from the 17th century. Mr Corbyn is not the first scientist to identify the solar cycles as the key to the weather, but he is the first to establish any track record of successful prediction.

He believes that the methods used by the Meteorological Office, based on computer predictions of the movement of the atmosphere and of weather systems, are effective for short-range forecasting but not for predictions more than ten days ahead.

His bets have the serious purpose of establishing in an unambiguous way whether his method is better than chance. The odds on each prediction are set by the London Weather Centre, whose advice the bookmakers generally accept. Each month Mr Corbyn places about 30 bets of £20 each, the maximum, he says, the bookmakers allow him. He says that so far this year he has come out ahead every month except one.

His most recent bets, placed on July 20, predicted that this month would be the hottest since 1659. The London Weather Centre suggested odds of 249-1 against this being true, but William Hill's prudently offered a more miserly 20-1. As things stand, Mr Corbyn looks set to collect.

He is now predicting continued settled weather and "the great drought of 1990" for which he says the water authorities are ill-prepared. "We attempted to warn them earlier this year that something was coming, but they were not prepared to listen."

The Meteorological Office was reluctant to dismiss Mr Corbyn's methods, saying that it would like time to study them further. A spokesman said, however, that there were many other factors apart from the sun which determined weather. Proof of Mr Corbyn's methods would come with time and careful examination, he said. "People tend to remember the accurate forecasts and forget the rest."

York an oasis of green as hose ban extended

AS YORKSHIRE Water yesterday announced a hosepipe ban in the whole of the region, one city's gardeners will be able to carry on watering regardless.

York Waterworks, a private company which serves 175,000 people in and around the city, said it had no need for a ban.

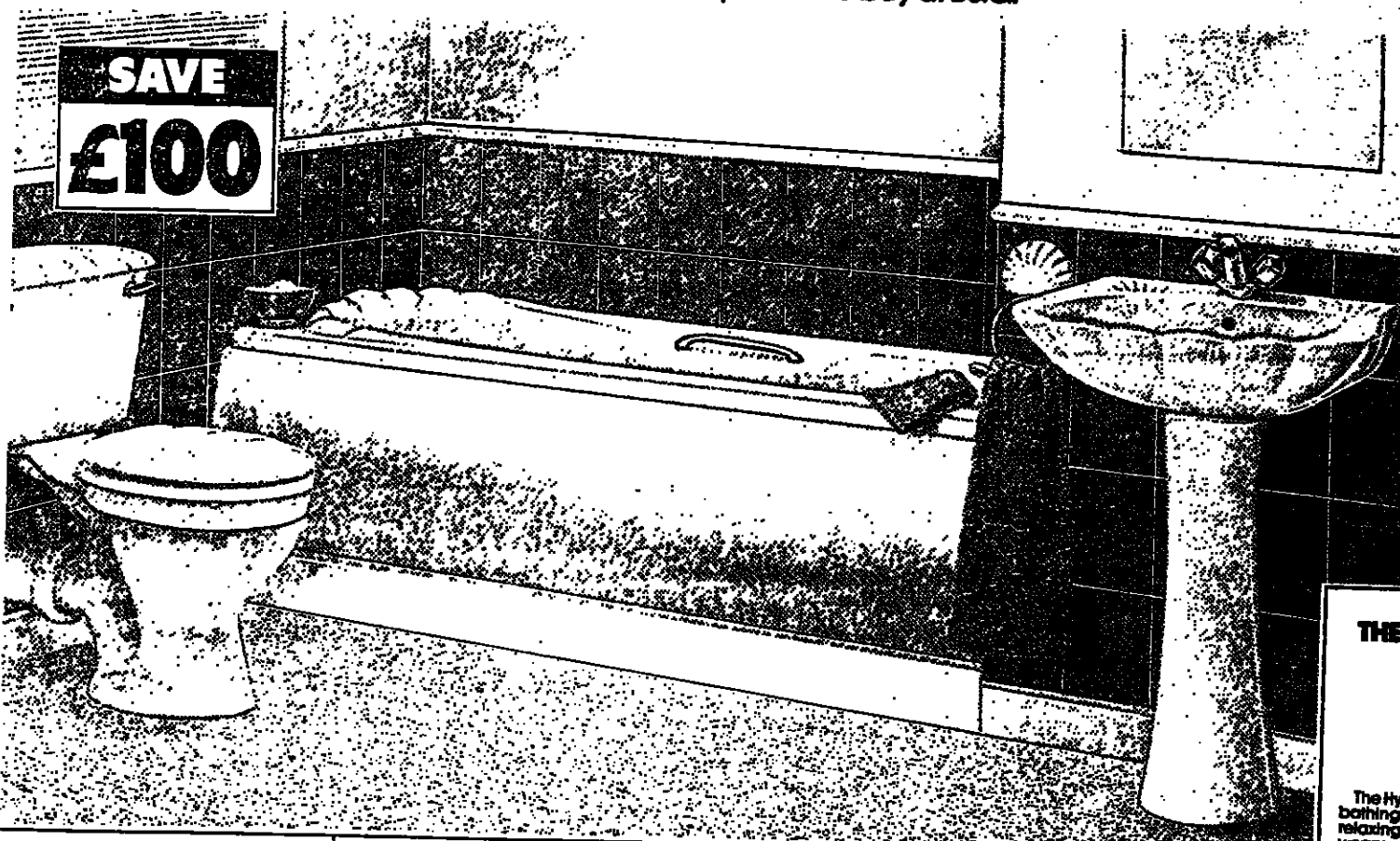
Roger Smith, chief engineer at the 300-year-old company, said: "We draw all our water supplies from the River Ouse and there's more than enough

there to keep us going through these difficult times." In the rest of Yorkshire 4.5 million people are banned from using hosepipes from 6pm today. Stocks have continued to dwindle and Yorkshire Water has extended emergency drought measures in Hull, Malton, Harrogate, Sheffield and Barnsley to cover the whole county.

The company said: "It is regrettable but necessary." Householders who ignore the ban face a fine of up to £400.

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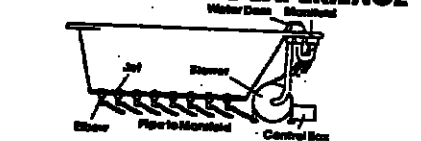


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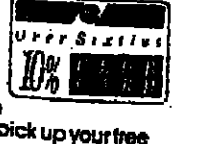
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£1m mystery left by lady who almost vanished

By JOHN SHAW

A WEALTHY widow who destroyed her past before she died has left behind an intriguing mystery and a £1 million windfall for the Treasury.

Dorothea Allen and her industrialist husband once enjoyed a champagne life-style with a country house in Warwickshire, flats in Park Lane and Park Avenue, and a 12-acre beachfront estate in Barbados. Lately, however, she withdrew from social life and became a virtual recluse, destroying letters, family papers, and even mutilating her passport.

Mrs Allen died aged 89 in January. She did not leave a will and officials have been unable to trace any next of kin. Her home, a 300-year-old manor house in the hamlet of Sutton-under-Brailles, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, is on the market and its contents will be sold by Sotheby's on September 4.

They include period furnishings and Georgian and French furniture. Still parked in the double garage are a 1964 Daimler 2.5-litre V8 saloon (estimate £18,000-£25,000) and a black 1972 Rolls-Royce Corniche convertible (estimate £30,000-£40,000).

Jackson-Stops & Staff in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, are offering the house at about £700,000 - and Sotheby's office in Chester estimates that the contents will make £250,000. The money will go to the Treasury.

John Lee, an official in the Treasury Solicitor's department, said yesterday: "We have been looking for an heir for months, but without success. The main difficulty has been that we have been unable to find her correct name and place of birth. We know her maiden name was Farquharson and her date of birth was January 21, 1901. But she tore off that part of her passport giving her place of birth."

Mrs Allen is believed to have been educated at an Ursuline convent in Herck-la-Ville, in Belgium, and is thought to have been married in New Haven, Connecticut. Enquiries in both places have been unsuccessful, Mr Lee said.

Claims could still be made against the estate, but they must be from blood relatives, he said. A valid claimant could receive money with interest for up to 12 years after Mrs Allen's death.

Her husband, Eric, came from Sheffield, was awarded the OBE for services to industry in 1957, and died in 1965. Mrs Allen was looked after by her chauffeur, Frank Steele, and his wife, who scattered Mr and Mrs Allen's ashes under a favourite chestnut tree in the grounds of the house.

Mr Steele said: "She didn't go out much in the last few years. When she died, we couldn't find much of value about her past, no medical



Snapshots from a life of luxury: Dorothea Allen, left, on her wedding day; her sumptuous home at Sutton-under-Brailles, built on the profits of a corsetry company; below left, the couple in Barbados in 1961, where they owned a 12-acre estate; and Eric Allen, who died in 1965. No claimants to assets valued at about £1 million have come forward



certificates, dental records, or anything like that. I don't know why she didn't leave a will, unless she came from a background she didn't want anybody to know anything about."

Mrs Allen had wardrobes full of clothes and 400 to 500 pairs of shoes from shops in Bond Street, Fifth Avenue,

and Paris. The money for her lifestyle and frequent first-class suites on the Queen Mary to New York came from a company selling women's corsetry. She and her husband founded Spencers Corsets in Banbury in 1927 and the firm later went into partnership with an American firm.

The manor house was bought in 1931 and lavishly decorated by Charles Tozer, a leading interior designer of the 1930s. Mrs Allen had an eye for jewellery by Cartier and knick-knacks by Fabergé. Sotheby's will sell her Cartier mystery clock and Fabergé ink well in Geneva.

During the second world war she and her husband

designed and manufactured a body belt for airmen to relieve the effects of G-forces when flying at high speed. The couple also equipped their village with an ambulance and fire-fighting apparatus. Mrs Allen organised a fund to buy a Spitfire, contributing much of the money herself, and the manor became home to eight

evacuees she treated as her own children.

Mrs Allen's life began to change four years after her husband died. She sold their yacht and the estate in Barbados. About ten years ago she was slightly concussed in a road accident and afterwards the woman who once briefly danced with Fred Astaire in a

Paris nightclub in the Thirties rarely left the house.

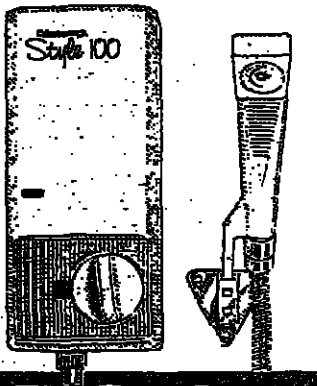
Brown Hanks, 80, a friend and confidante, said: "She was friendly but dignified, a very good businesswoman with a good eye to style. I knew her for over 40 years, yet knew nothing about her early life. It was something she never talked about."

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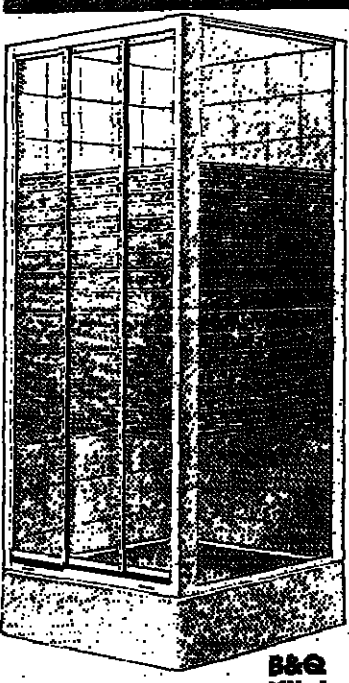
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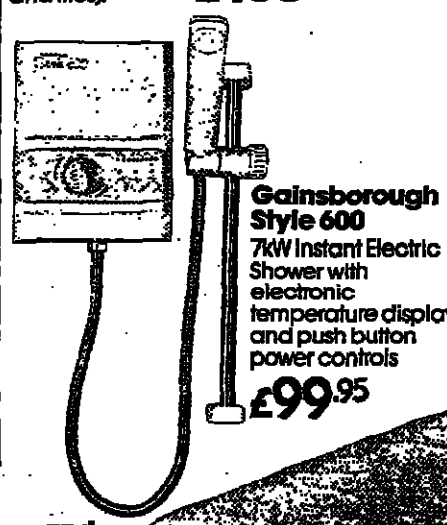
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Increase in voters may mean new seats

THE number of registered voters in the United Kingdom rose by 49,463 in the past year to 43,663,424, making the creation of new parliamentary constituencies likely before the end of the century (Sheila Gunn writes).

The biggest rise has been in voters living in suburban and country areas of southern England and Wales and a 10,000 increase in the Northern Ireland electorate because of a change in the local government franchise law.

The Boundary Commission has announced the break-up of Milton Keynes into two parliamentary constituencies before the next general election. The commission will start a review of the United Kingdom next February, which is expected to recommend the creation of new seats and changes in boundaries of some of the 650 parliamentary constituencies because of population shifts.

A report by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys published yesterday indicates that the Conservatives are likely to benefit most from the changes as the population shifts away from traditional Labour strongholds in the big cities.

In addition a change in the law from next April will extend the right to vote to overseas electors who are predicted to be mainly pro-Tory.

The number of electors on the 1989 and 1990 registers rose in England by 22,000; in Wales by 13,000; and in Scotland by 4,000. The report attributes some of the increase to the population growth.

After Milton Keynes, the largest constituency in the United Kingdom is the marginal Conservative seat of the Isle of Wight, with 101,859 electors. The Tory strongholds of East Berkshire, East Hampshire, Huntingdon, Eastleigh and Swindon and the marginal Labour seat of The Wrekin have more than 90,000 voters.

At the other end of the scale is the Western Isles, with just 23,084 electors, followed by other constituencies in remote areas of Scotland and Wales with electorates of about 30,000 each.

Electoral Statistics 1990 (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Stationery Office, £5)

Relax planning controls for farmers, peers say

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS should be paid to manage their land in environmentally desirable ways, and planning controls should be relaxed to allow more non-agricultural economic activity in the countryside, the House of Lords select committee on the European Communities recommends today.

The committee also urges the government to provide more funds and land for low-cost rural housing, and says it is worried about the impact of the uniform business rate on small rural businesses, particularly village shops and

post offices, many of which might be forced to close. Most such businesses are only marginally profitable, the committee says. Most have living quarters attached and will have to pay higher business rates on top of the poll tax. The government should consider relating rates to the level of profitability as in the case of public houses and petrol stations.

The committee's report is a response to a paper issued in 1985 by the European Commission on "the future of rural society". The paper called for policies to mitigate the impact

on marginal farming communities of cuts in price support under the common agricultural policy (CAP) and to stem the exodus of population to the cities.

While recognising that the CAP has social as well as economic objectives, the Lords report believes the emphasis placed by Brussels on the survival of the small family farm is misplaced.

"The committee do not regard the concept of a 'family farm' as one which is useful for policy purposes, since it can mean more or less anything one wants it to mean. Nor is it clear what benefits the 'family farm' confers on society," the report says.

The legitimate social aim of minimising hardship must not become a reason for inhibiting the development of more efficient agriculture, the peers say, and reductions in farm price support must not be undermined by "alternative agricultural subsidies of ever-increasing complexity and economic dubiousity".

For similar reasons, the committee believes that the European Commission and the government are misguided in trying to encourage farmers to diversify by providing farm-based tourist amenities and supplying limited "niche markets" for specialist food products. Diversification grants should be "switched" to the promotion of other forms of employment and activity which will enable farmers, farmworkers and members of their families to continue to live in rural areas.

Farmers throughout the country should be made eligible for the grants now available only to those within environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), the committee says. There are 19 ESAs covering about 3.5 per cent of the countryside. Farmers in them are paid to preserve or restore hedgerows and dry-stone walls, to reduce stocking densities and to use less pesticide and fertilisers.

The committee urges the government and Brussels to re-think the present system of subsidies for hill farmers. Hill farmers, it suggests, should be provided for in a wider system of ESAs.

The Future of Rural Society (House of Lords select committee on the European Communities, £10.25)

MPs criticise £63m VAT penalty debts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

CUSTOMS and Excise officials were criticised by a group of MPs yesterday for allowing traders to build up £63 million penalties after failing behind with value-added tax payments.

The Commons public accounts committee, chaired by Robert Sheldon, (Lab, Ashton-under-Lyne), said that the effectiveness of the default surcharge will be undermined unless inspectors pursue slow payers. "We expect the department actively to pursue recovery of these sums. Although they may be small in relation to total VAT liability they are nevertheless important in terms of the deterrence that they represent," the committee said.

Customs and Excise said that about £18 million of the unpaid default surcharges involved winding-up and insolvency cases, missing traders or court actions and £7 million was owing on debts of less than £1,000. A further £9 million was only slightly overdue and traders owing the remaining £29 million were being pressed to pay under the department's debt enforcement programme.

The committee said: "We note the department's continuing success in reducing the level of VAT arrears, but we are concerned about the increase in the level of outstanding default surcharges." It criticised the shortage of VAT inspectors, especially in the London headquarters. Estimates of the amount of VAT unpaid through staff shortages and inexperience varied from between £60 million and £142 million. The department told the committee that the London area needed 363 more inspectors.

The committee repeated a recommendation for exemptions from duty or tax made in 1985 by the European Commission on "the future of rural society". The paper called for policies to mitigate the impact

of the amount of VAT unpaid through staff shortages and inexperience varied from between £60 million and £142 million. The department told the committee that the London area needed 363 more inspectors.

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Sheldon: chase bad payers

Ferries prepare for squalls over Sunday sailings

By KERRY GILL

ONE of the last bastions of Sabbathian observance in Britain could be challenged later this month when a government-owned ferry company decides whether to run Sunday sailings from Ullapool, northwest Scotland, to Stornoway, the largest town in the Western Isles.

Opposition to the Sunday service, almost certain to be approved by the ferry operators Caledonian MacBrayne, will be fierce. Generations of islanders have observed the Lord's day, particularly on the Protestant islands of Lewis and Harris where Presbyterianism influences much of

everyday life. A meeting in Stornoway this week was attended by church ministers, councillors, tradesmen and hoteliers. A fighting group will be formed next week.

The Rev Jack Macleod, the Free Church of Scotland minister at Point on the Eye Peninsula, west of Stornoway, said: "There will be widespread opposition, but we are not an irreligious element." Mr Macleod said that islanders would fight Sunday sailings by all legal means but, if these were exhausted, Caledonian MacBrayne could expect sanctions from locals. Last year the company successfully introduced a

Sunday service from Lochmaddy, North Uist, to Uig, on Skye, in spite of vigorous protests and a council ban on the use of its vehicle ramp. Cars and vans had to be loaded through a side entrance.

The uproar that followed the ferry company's proposal to include Tarbert, Harris, on the Sunday service led to local fishermen threatening to blockade the port. The company backed down. Mr Macleod said yesterday that he hoped that fishermen in Stornoway would be prepared to stage a similar blockade if all other means failed.

Colin Paterson, the ferry company's managing director, said: "We are

taking a decision before the end of this month. It will be a genuinely commercial decision. The vessel is already under pressure from traffic during the summer." If approved, Sunday sailings on the three-and-a-half-hour crossing would run from April until September.

The Rev John Macleod, the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland minister in Stornoway, said: "My opposition to ferries coming in on the Lord's day is that it is in breach of the fourth commandment. It is a religious matter for me. There is an atmosphere here that you don't find anywhere else in Britain. We treasure that and we don't want to lose it."

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Murderer of 'Stompie' is sentenced to death

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

JERRY Richardson, coach of the "Mandela United Football Club", Winnie Mandela's gang of bodyguards, was sentenced to death yesterday for murdering a black child activist, "Stompie" Mokheisi Seipei, aged 14.

Prosecution of Mrs Mandela, wife of the deputy president of the African National Congress, may follow.

According to Mr Justice Brian O'Donovan, who sentenced Richardson in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg, there is evidence that Mrs Mandela was present "for part of the time" when Stompie and three other youths were assaulted at her Soweto home. Stompie's mutilated body was found on open land several days after the assault in January 1989.

Klaus von Lieres, attorney-general for the Witwatersrand, has gone on record saying he would consider Mrs Mandela's role as an accessory after Richardson had been sentenced. Adriaan Vlok, minister of law and order, has said: "We are proceeding care-

fully so as not to give any indication that we are acting vindictively against Mrs Mandela."

After two days of evidence in mitigation, in which it was claimed that Richardson, aged 41, was retarded, and idolised Mrs Mandela, whose approval he sought, Mr Justice O'Donovan ruled there were no extenuating circumstances.

He said the murder of Stompie, "hardly more than a child", was premeditated and particularly brutal. He added: "It is difficult to see how kidnapping and murder can be mitigated by the desire to please anybody."

Richardson, who was also sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for attempted murder, kidnapping and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, has an automatic right of appeal.

During the trial it was revealed that Stompie and the other youths were abducted from a Methodist church manse in Soweto and taken to the Mandela home.

Stompie was accused of being a police informer and the others of having had homosexual relations with a minister. The boys were beaten with sjamboks and their blood covered the walls of the room. One of the four, Kenny Kgasi, alleged that Mrs Mandela punched him, and beat Stompie to the ground.

Mrs Mandela's lawyers called a witness who testified that she was hundreds of miles away in the Orange Free State at the time, but the judge said the evidence "did not impress".

In February, President de Klerk halted judicial executions to help create the climate for negotiation with black leaders on a new constitution.

A decision whether to proceed against Mrs Mandela comes at a critical point in the peace process. A prosecution would give her a chance to clear her name - she declined to give evidence during Richardson's trial - while a decision not to prosecute would be interpreted in many quarters as political.

Also, Mr Mandela's credibility would be exposed, possibly endangering negotiations.

Mr Mandela has stood firmly by his wife and refused to answer questions about the Richardson case during his recent overseas tour. It was on his orders, issued while he was still in prison, that the "Mandela United Football Club" was disbanded two months after Stompie's murder.

In a separate case at the Rand Supreme Court, in which a member of the club is facing multiple murder and attempted murder charges, a witness has claimed that Mrs Mandela "mandated" the accused, Charles Zwane, to kill her son.

However, Mr von Lieres has said the allegation would have no bearing on his decision on whether to prosecute Mrs Mandela.

ANC chiefs in township mission to sell truce

By RAY KENNEDY

SENIOR members of the African National Congress are going into black townships throughout South Africa to explain why the organisation's armed struggle has been suspended.

The ANC is making the issue a priority after accusations by radical organisations and some of its own members that it has made more concessions than the government. A newspaper advertisement campaign is also to be launched to convey the message.

A key problem facing the ANC since the announcement of the ceasefire, ordered after talks with the government in Pretoria on Monday, is how it is going to be enforced.

Only two weeks ago, at the height of a dispute over police allegations of a "red plot" to infiltrate hardline guerrillas into the country, Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, agreed the congress had not succeeded in making contact with all of its members to tell them of the pledge to seek a peaceful solution that was made at initial talks with the government in May.

Meanwhile, Joe Slovo, the secretary-general of the South African Communist Party and a member of the ANC national executive, has said the ANC will not hesitate to resume the armed struggle if it feels the government and the security forces are not living up to the Pretoria agreement. President de Klerk's priority was to control the police force.



Running battle: Liberian rebels loyal to Charles Taylor leading an attack against President Doe's troops at Paynesville, east of Monrovia. Taylor aides believe Lagos is supplying arms to the beleaguered president

China and Indonesia renew diplomatic ties

By DAVID WATTS

AFTER years of cautious rapprochement, China and Indonesia yesterday restored diplomatic relations, closing an extraordinary era in Peking's relations with South-East Asia and easing the isolation of the Chinese after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

"We agreed to let bygones be bygones and look to the future," Li Peng, the Chinese premier, said after the two countries signed agreements to restore diplomatic relations and step up economic co-operation. Mr Li said he was confident that China would not follow East European nations into Western-style democracy. "Now China enjoys political stability. The socialist system in China is stable and what happened in Eastern European countries will not happen in China."

But the new chapter - Singapore and Malaysia look set to follow suit shortly - is qualified by an uneasiness about the direction of the old men ruling in Peking.

A key question is whether they will go back to the sort of regional political adventure which culminated in the bloody events in Indonesia in 1965, when hundreds of thousands of Indonesians turned on members of what was then the world's largest legal communist party outside the com-

munist bloc and killed half a million of them, or whether the countries of South-East Asia will be able to start living without one fearful eye on the dragon to the north.

The full story of the 1965 coup is not yet known - the leader of the Indonesian party, the PKI, escaped to Peking and the American Central Intelligence Agency denied any role. But a retired CIA officer recently admitted that the agency had played a role in the events which later brought the then General Suharto to power and dispensed with the services of President Sukarno. Sukarno's brilliant oratory mesmerised the peasantry and unified a nation. But his socialist policies and predilection for the nightclubs of Tokyo helped bring the economy of the world's largest nominally Muslim country to its knees.

There is still doubt whether the communists, who were strongly supported by Sukarno, were intent on a take-over or whether the Indonesian military and its Western sympathisers decided to use them as a vehicle to rid the country of Sukarno.

The rest of South-East Asia has hung back awaiting the Indonesian lead on restoring official links with Peking. Singapore has many un-

official links, including hotel-management contracts and help for the pre-massacre regime with economic reform; only in recent years has Malaysia been able to relax its guard against any resurgence of the Chinese-backed insurgents of the Communist Party of Malaysia, in a country where the Chinese of the diaspora are seen as such skilful and threatening businessmen that an economic policy has had to be designed to contain them and advance the interest of the Malays.

Thailand's business community is heavily Sino-Thai and Bangkok's closer relationship with Peking - the military buys tanks and jet fighters from China - reflects the greater degree to which the Chinese of the diaspora have integrated in Thailand and their common interest, up to the present, in keeping Vietnam off balance.

That is a policy which attracts criticism from both inside and outside the region as the Thai military continues to allow free passage of arms to Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, the bluntest and bloodiest instrument of Chinese policy in South-East Asia and a key reason why China will continue to be distrusted despite the arrival of an envoy in Jakarta.

Armenian leader in talks on arms edict

FROM NICK WORRALL IN MOSCOW

AS THE deadline approached for unofficial Soviet armed groups to obey President Gorbachev's decree and hand in their weapons, Levon Ter-Petrosian, the new nationalist president of Armenia, flew to Moscow yesterday for two days of talks with government leaders aimed at averting a clash between his supporters and the Soviet army.

On July 25, Mr Gorbachev instructed all unauthorised armed units to disband within 15 days and surrender their weapons. The limit expires at midnight tonight. The decree said that force would be used against those who defied it.

Armenia is estimated to have between 20,000 and 40,000 armed men who, according to reports reaching Moscow, have engaged Soviet troops. Armenia's parliament suspended the presidential decree, thereby appearing to encourage the partisans.

According to Tass, the initiative for yesterday's visit may have come from Mr Gorbachev in a telephone call to President Ter-Petrosian on Tuesday. It was not clear whether the Soviet leader, on holiday in the Crimea, was planning to return to Moscow.

Omens are ill for peace force plan in Liberia

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

AFTER enduring weeks of suffering, the ordinary people of Liberia can be excused for greeting the proposed intervention of a West African peacekeeping force in their war-ravaged nation with a huge sigh of relief. At long last, it must appear to them, the outside world has recognised their appalling situation as they are squashed remorselessly between two ruthless and mutually hostile rebel factions and the pitiless regime of President Doe.

But as preparations begin for the intervention of the peacekeeping force in the name of the 16-member Economic Community of West African States, there is scepticism among regional observers about the prospect of a successful outcome.

There is particular concern about the reaction of the guerrilla forces led by Charles Taylor and Prince Johnson to the heavy involvement of Nigeria, the regional military power. Both leaders have previously accused Lagos of actively backing the Doe regime, while the abduction and suspected murder of a number of Nigerian citizens in a refugee camp close to Monrovia, the Liberian capital, adds another potent element to the witch's brew in which Liberia is fast sinking.

According to unconfirmed reports, as many as seven Nigerian warships are already anchored off the Liberian coast. While no detailed plans have yet been revealed by the West African leaders, it is hard to conceive of a successful intervention that would not involve moving substantial numbers of troops into and around Monrovia to separate the warring parties.

The most likely jump-off point for such a ground operation would be neighbouring Sierra Leone, which took part in last week's West African summit. But intervention via Guinea, which is now struggling to cope with at least 250,000 Liberian refugees, cannot be ruled out.

Troops entering from this direction would have to pass - and conceivably, fight their way through - the heartland of support for Mr Taylor's well-armed guerrillas. On past form, Mr Taylor might be expected to resist vigorously a Nigerian-dominated peacekeeping force from occupying territory for which his own men have fought and died. Some Taylor aides have previously hinted that Lagos may have been supplying weapons to President Doe since he retreated to Monrovia for a final stand in the bullet-pocked executive mansion.

The six Nigerian citizens appear to have met their deaths within the Taylor zone at the grim makeshift refugee camp in Fendell, in a manner that has become dreadfully familiar in recent weeks: singled out by armed men and led away, never to be seen again. The remaining thirty or so Nigerians at Fendell are terrified, as are a few dozen more refugees from Ghana and Sierra Leone whose fate would surely be sealed if West African forces do clash with Mr Taylor's fighters.

The release of foreign hos-

tages yesterday by Prince Johnson appears to be a more encouraging signal, since his avowed aim of provoking outside intervention has been achieved, at least, on paper. But he can be just as erratic as Mr Taylor, who has now regards as a bitter foe. Given up the strategic ground he has won in Monrovia will not suit Prince Johnson's military ego.

Even if the West African initiative does succeed, as Liberians are praying it will, the objective of getting the warring factions, with all the innocent blood they have on their hands, to sit down peacefully around the table and discuss the nation's future above politics and tribe strikes some observers as unrealistic.

Persuading a half-crazed dictator and two notably bloodthirsty rebel commanders to knuckle under for the good of the nation will certainly take some doing, and West African states could find military intervention turning into a long drawn-out engagement in a land where human life now comes terribly cheap.

Jews stone West Bank vehicles

Jerusalem - Jewish mobs stoned Palestinian-owned cars yesterday in a third day of violence. Teddy Kollek, the mayor, said the rioting has sharpened divisions. The attacks erupted after two Jewish youths, Ronen Karamani, aged 18, and Lior Tubul, 17, were killed, apparently by Palestinian militants.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, said Israel must respond to the killings by deporting 150 leaders of the Palestinian uprising. The mobs stoned Arab-owned cars and taxis. (AP)

Bogotá battle

Bogotá - César Gaviria, Colombia's new president, will turn the fight against his country's drug barons into an international effort (A Correspondent writes). After being sworn in on Tuesday, he said he expects the West to fight money laundering and arms trafficking.

Trial put off

Bucharest - The trial of 23 members of the Ceausescu politburo was adjourned yesterday owing to the ill-health of two of the defendants (Tim Judah writes). The defendants have been charged with "complicity in genocide" in last December's bloody revolution.

Trinidad plan

Port of Spain - Winston Dookeran, acting prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, has announced a reconstruction plan after the recent coup attempt. Damage to property is estimated at \$70 million (\$27 million). He said public administration buildings will be repaired soon. (AP)

Train blast

Moscow - An explosion last month on a Soviet train, which killed five people, was caused by a crooked businessman, investigators said. The bomber, identified as Asker Askerov, was among the victims. Tass said he had stolen money and wanted to feign his own death. (Reuters)

Test of strength

Delhi - Devi Lal, India's sacked deputy prime minister, will challenge the government today with a farmers' rally, viewed as the start of a struggle between the country's rural masses and the urban elite. Mr Lal expects to bring one million people to Delhi in a test of his strength. (Reuters)

Thieves crucified

Cairo - Sudan crucified two men yesterday, six years after they were convicted of armed robbery. The Sudanese news agency, Sana, said Hamid Suliman and Argawi Turabi Garceb were put to death in western Sudan after being sentenced in 1984. (Reuters)

Hostages hope

Sidon - Two Swiss hostages were expected to be freed yesterday. Elio Errico, aged 24, and Emmanuel Christen, 33, were kidnapped last October. The Palestinian Revolutionary Front said it would free them in response to wishes of the Syrian, Libyan and Algerian leaders. (Reuters)

Topless judge

Prague - A judge, aged 27, who took part in a topless beauty contest, has been reprimanded (Peter Green writes). Brigita Volopichova was placed second in the contest. Her colleagues thought it was undignified and reprimanded her, drawing a veil over the whole affair.

Unity proposal stalls in East Germany

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN EAST BERLIN

EAST Germany's parliament, the Volkskammer, appeared headed towards rejection yesterday of a proposal for immediate reunification with West Germany, but unity still seemed to be little further away than eight weeks.

A number of Social Democrats, at one point in the heated proceedings, left the parliament hall in protest at statements made by a Christian Democrat opponent in a debate over the timetable of reunification.

The extraordinary session yesterday was likely to vote on three or four proposals for the country's reunification with West Germany as soon as international talks and the country's state treaty are

sorted out. The first proposal calls for immediate reunification, and was being made by the tiny conservative German Social Union (DSU) party.

The German Unity committee of the parliament had already recommended that this proposal be rejected until details of the second state treaty are hammered out. This recommendation was likely to be rejected by the full parliament.

The second proposal, by the Social Democratic party (SPD), called for unity on September 15 and all-German elections as originally planned for December 2. The third, by the East German parliament's strongest party, the Christian Democrats, called for unity

and all-German elections on October 14. But sources in Bonn indicated that the conservative union of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, may find it impossible to achieve that end, and may accept earlier unity.

The fourth, as yet not a proposal but expressed by the vice-president of the Volkskammer, Reinhard Hoepfner, and in conjunction with the Bonn union's apparent view, would see unity between September 15 and October 14. None of the motions was expected to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority.

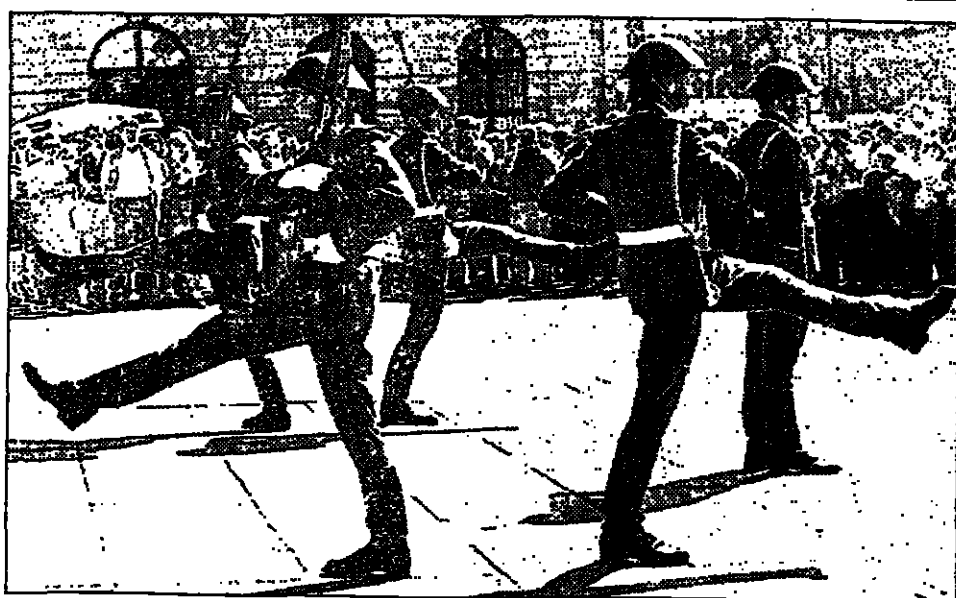
A recommendation by Lothar de Maizière, the East German prime minister, that his Christian Democrats vote

against immediate reunification on the September option is also likely to be accepted by his nervous party colleagues, whose constituents are already faced with layoffs.

Christian Democrats East and West, led by Herr Kohl, want unity and all-German elections to fall in mid-October. The Social Democrats in both countries want to see unity fall on September 15, or three days after the last session of the "two-plus-four" talks on the German question in New York are convened. Herr Kohl and his allies appear to believe that the longer unity is held off, and then tied to an election, the less blame can be attributed to his go-fast policies.

Meanwhile, boxes and parcels were changing hands in rapid deals in the cafe. Dispirited police, awaiting full democratisation, appeared to be turning a blind eye.

"It would seem that they are dealing in several commodities here," the newspaper said. "The deals are occasionally loud, occasionally in whispers. One could only hazard a guess what is in the parcels that are changing hands at



Out of step: East German troops goose-stepping as they changed guard in East Berlin yesterday, a day after the government abolished the step for the army

Securitate men cash in on the Hungarian café connection

By GABRIEL RONAY

NICOLAE Ceausescu's redundant Securitate agents are alive and well and making a fortune in contraband deals. The hub of their operations is a seedy café in Budapest from where they make their runs to France and West Germany.

This "Hungarian connection" fits into the well-established "French connection" of these inexplicably well-heeled "refugees" travelling on dubious passports, a well-informed Budapest source says. These Romanians ply their trade in Mercedes cars with West German numbers and de luxe Renaults with French licence plates.

At the Café Bucharest on the Hungarian capital's rundown Bartok Bela boulevard, beffy Romanians offer bundles of grubby

German marks and dollars at a reasonable exchange rate and mysterious parcels change hands at the back tables and on the pavement outside. The Bucharest is a relic of the days of the communist friendship among the nations, when state-run restaurants were freely named after the capitals of neighbouring states. There is no other official link with Romania, but, apparently, this is enough to get the "new refugees" to congregate there, according to the Budapest newspaper *Magyar Nemzet*.

"I am frightened of them," a waitress told the paper. "Do not tell me that our clientele is made up of innocent refugees. Look at their women: gold is dripping from their ears, arms and fingers."

The patrons of the café are big spenders with wads of bank notes

casually stuffed into their pockets. Several customers left the café when the *Magyar Nemzet* reporter said that he was a journalist.

One well-dressed Romanian chose silence when asked how, as a new refugee, he had so much money and a smart Mercedes outside. A further question about the line of business he was in was also treated with dumb contempt.

Meanwhile, boxes and parcels were changing hands in rapid deals in the cafe. Dispirited police, awaiting full democratisation, appeared to be turning a blind eye.

"It would seem that they are dealing in several commodities here," the newspaper said. "The deals are occasionally loud, occasionally in whispers. One could only hazard a guess what is in the parcels that are changing hands at

the parked cars outside the café." An habituée of the Bucharest indignantly rebutted a suggestion that among the rich refugees there might be a sprinkling of former, or perhaps present-day, Romanian agents. He insisted that he was not a Romanian anyway but French. To prove his point, he insisted on showing his French car outside.

"Clearly these boys are leaving nothing to chance," the report said. "Equally clearly they know perfectly, and observe, the methods of long standing or a secret policeman persecuting them."

That the patrons of the café belong to the latter the *Magyar Nemzet* report left no doubt. "What is so terrifying is that these men have to this day retained cer-

tain lines of communication with Romania. The proof is in their regular trips between Bucharest and Western Europe," the paper said.

Meanwhile, another patron of the Bucharest who did not like the reporter's interest, told him that he had made a mistake in nosing around and suggested menacingly that "you just walk out of here very, very quietly and so perhaps you will get away with this intrusion".

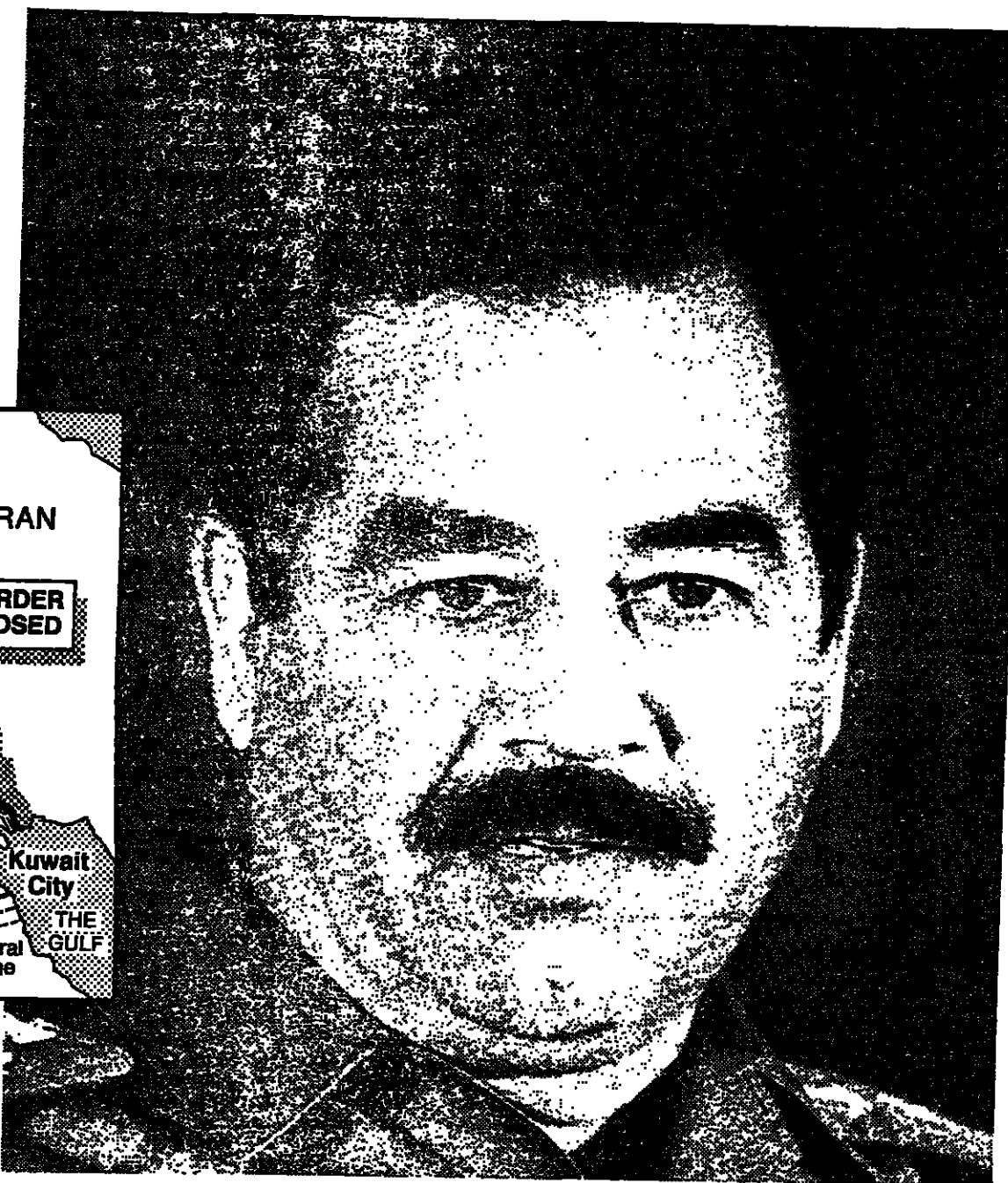
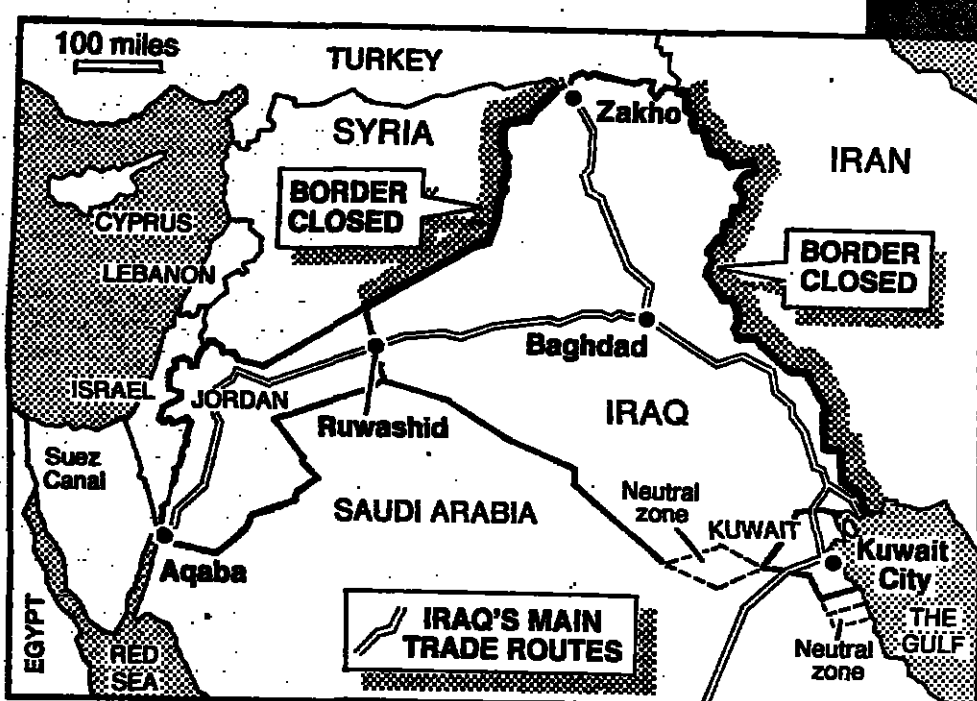
When I dropped into the café for a lunchtime drink during a trip to Budapest not long ago, the conversation stopped suddenly at the plastic tables and only resumed when they heard me talk in English to my wife. The snatches of conversations I overheard - and understood - did not sound like innocent patter of refugees waiting

for something to turn up. According to the *Magyar Nemzet* sources, the idea of a "revolution" in Romania was first mentioned at the café late last November, when the Romanian dictator was still safely in his Bucharest palace. There followed a sudden spate of visitors who were discussing the chances of a military *putsch* in Romania.

The paper added: "It created a bit of a surprise among observant Hungarians that the well-heeled Romanian patrons of the café became distressed and enraged upon hearing about the Timisoara protest demonstrations in December. Clearly, this did not fit into their plans."

Since then, a new kind of clientele has made the Bucharest their home from home.

WORLD IN CRISIS



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EVERY HOUR, 24 HOURS A DAY



YOU'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Now praise this man of piety

Edward Norman

There is something surprising, even mysterious, about the extent of Cardinal Newman's reputation in the modern world as we come to mark the centenary of his death this Saturday. For almost all the things he believed most passionately are not features of contemporary Christian understanding. At the centre of his religious vision lay an insistence on dogma, and a rejection of liberalism in religion — "the doctrine", as he put it late in life, "that there is no positive truth in religion, but that one creed is as good as another". His conversion to Catholicism in 1845 resulted from a conviction that Christian belief had to be based on clear authority. Christ, he recognised, had committed his truth not to a philosophical system or an ethical code, but to a communion of believers. Who were they in the England of the mid 19th century? Newman thought it crucial to identify the tradition within which religious insights are validated.

In the first half of his life, as a clerical don, Newman sensed that the authentication of doctrine by the dignitaries of the Church of England was rather imprecise. At the time, furthermore, Erastian forces were leading to the parliamentary abolition of ancient bishoprics in Ireland, disposed of as one might cast out old furniture. Gradually, in steps recounted in his famous *Apologia* of 1864, he realised that the church of antiquity was represented in the Roman Catholic Church of his day, whatever its corruptions or alien cultural associations. To defect to its ranks showed real heroism, for it meant giving up the don's comfortable life for an institution that had for centuries been the embodiment of all that Englishmen loathed.

Newman was not attracted to the Catholic Church by its ritual or sacred theatre. He was light years away from the subsequent converts from Anglicanism, whose camp antics amused the Irish labourers actually occupying Catholic places of worship in England.

Newman's religious ideas showed a single progression throughout his life, and the conversion of 1845 was scarcely more than a punctuation: a recognition that the doctrine of the church he had come to espouse was more faithfully represented within the Catholic Church than within the Church of England. Anglicans still have no adequate doctrine, but Newman's insistence on exact doctrine does not much interest contemporary Christianity: there is, instead, an impatience with those who place dogma before the practical work of Christianity, and the leadership tends to prefer ambiguous forms of words in the hope of avoiding controversy. Newman was above all a controversialist who believed that truth emerges from the testing of ideas. He also thought that the ills of

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

We were sitting on blankets in a field by the sea — a mother, a father, four children and I — and there remained on a serving dish the remnants of a picnic: one cherry tomato stuffed with tuna fish mayonnaise, sprouting a spring of parsley just beginning to wither and yellow in the afternoon sun. "Eat that nice tomato," I advised the youngest of the children.

"Shan't," said the child. "You eat it."

"Shan't," I said, pouring a glass of peach brandy into my Pimm's; good drink Pimm's with a peach brandy, gives it authority and saves you having to find lemon slices and cucumber, mint and borage. "I could drink this stuff until the rains come," I said to nobody in particular.

"If there was only one thing that you could eat, from now on, for ever and ever and ever, what would it be?" asks the brother of the child who had declined to eat the tomato.

"What would you choose?" said I, buying time.

"Brown bread, egg and cress sandwiches, cut into soldiers," said the child, possibly because I had eaten the last one. I explained that one would get tired of egg and cress sandwiches, however they are cut. There is a terrible sameness about eggs and cress. Also, the eggs would go off, as they got Mrs Currie. Cruel things hard-boiled eggs are; take no prisoners.

We listened to the weather report on the car radio. "No change," said the woman from the Met Office, not a drop of rain as far as the eye can see.

"There would come a time," said I, reverting to the chosen food. "When you would be faced with number 612 egg and cress buttie and would scream, 'Not egg again!' I mentioned that there was no country in the world that had eggs as a staple: some had rice, some corn meal, some cabbage soup and some black beans. None had eggs."

"And some have bacon-flavoured crisps," said the younger girl. "I would never get tired of bacon-flavoured crisps."

"What two things in the air make a woman pregnant?" asked the father. We shook our

heads and the eight-year-old boy announced that just so long as there was an adequate supply of cold, pink, fizzy drink, food was not important. "How about in the winter?" I asked him, knowing the limited appeal of hot, pink fizzy drink.

The mother, sipping a glass of Campari and orange juice in proportions of one to three, heavy on the ice-cubes, told me to stop asking questions and answer what I had been asked: which one food would I select?

I asked for ground rules: could I have an unlimited supply of salt, pepper and mustard; lemon juice, ground ginger and tomato ketchup? They said no. I discarded shepherd's pie, chicken risotto, ravioli stuffed with spinach and buffalo ricotta cheese — and sundae puddings — and plumped for fish cakes. It would be tough, eating fishcakes three times a day, but I would give it my best shot. In the process, I should become the world authority on fish cakes, the way Lord St John of Fawley is on Princess Michael of Kent.

Peter Sissons, announcing the impending Gummer versus The Turbot on a String restaurant lawsuit for infringement of fish content in composite dishes legislation, would say: "Over now to someone who is extremely knowledgeable on the subject. Thank you for coming to the studio, Clement."

Another thing in fish cakes' favour, something that cannot be said for summer pudding or risotto, is that whatever you drink goes brilliantly with them: beers, ciders, wines of any colour and degree of sparkle. Also, a well-made fish cake, say one containing 70 per cent flaked salmon to 30 per cent roughly mashed potato bound in a well-seasoned anchovy-flavoured white sauce, shaped into discs, brushed with beaten egg, dried in toasted breadcrumbs then fried in clarified butter can be enjoyed hot or cold, or at any temperature in between, which is more than you can say for ravioli and shepherd's pie.

The afternoon wore on. A wasp landed on the lonely tomato. "What two things?" I asked the father.

"Her legs," he said.

Why Bush is treating Kuwait as a modern Pearl Harbor

With sanctions starting to hurt and the US determined to tighten the net,

Conor Cruise O'Brien believes

Saddam Hussein's regime is doomed

Saddam Hussein probably hasn't much longer to live. If he can't sell his oil, he can't pay his troops, and if he can't pay them, they will kill him.

This is not at all the same as saying that the crisis is nearly over. On the contrary, the crisis is entering its most dangerous phase. When Saddam sees doom staring him in the face, as he must before long, he will want to take as many people with him as possible. At that stage, any Europeans and Americans remaining in territory held by him will be in grave danger. So will Israel.

Before he falls, Saddam will want to make good his threat to "scorch" half of Israel with chemical weapons. In that way he would make his exit in a blaze of Arab glory. In the Arab memory, Saddam Hussein would be a hero, and Arab governments which appear to have let him down — most notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt — would be in danger.

Sanctions are going to work this time, indeed, are already working. The contrast between the present determined activity and the kind of sanctions applied over Rhodesia is striking. The difference is that in the case of Rhodesia, no power was interested in making sanctions work, whereas in the case of Iraq, the most powerful country on earth is determined that sanctions shall succeed. No other country altogether shares the determination of the United States in this matter, but neither is anyone inclined to back Iraq against the US.

The reasons for America's determination are partly economic and partly political. As always, since the crucial decisions have to be taken by a politician, the main reasons are political. By invading Kuwait, Saddam Hussein was seen as defying the United States, and if he were to get away with that, there would

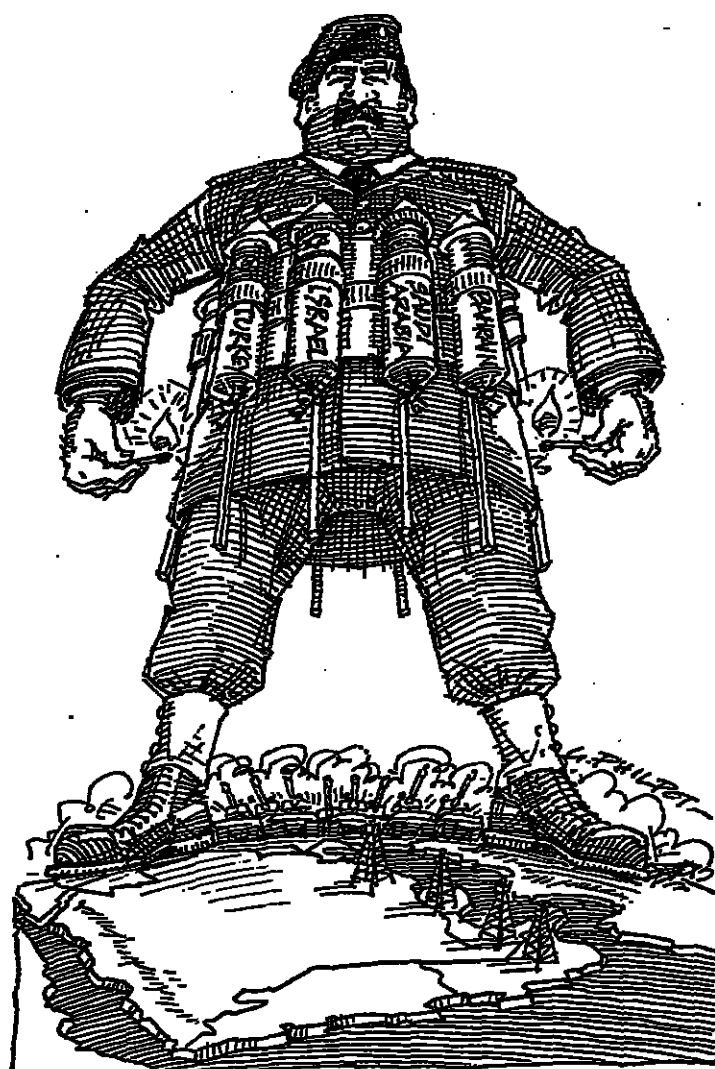
probably be no second term for George Bush. That is motivation enough.

In his televised statement yesterday afternoon, the president appeared appropriately resolute. He has the apparently unanimous support of both Houses of Congress, and — according to a poll of 80 per cent of the American people. Casualties may diminish this initial support, but probably not to a great degree. Unlike Vietnam, this is a clear-cut case of aggression, comparable to Pearl Harbor.

Although the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not a direct attack on American territory, it was an attack on a country vital to the American economy, and it threatens other territories which are similarly vital. The impact of the Iraqi aggression is something that Americans, as well as Europeans, are already experiencing in their daily lives. In the circumstances, the president's stand is just what is expected of him.

The president is also fortified by the unprecedented extent and strength of international support for action against Saddam Hussein. Americans always like to think that they have world opinion on their side. Over Vietnam they had not, but over Iraq they have. Britain's prompt commitment is particularly helpful to Mr Bush, as is Turkey's pipeline action.

As an old United Nations hand, I am happy to see the UN at last functioning as it was intended to, with the five permanent members working in harmony. Happy, and a little envious. When I worked for the UN, 29 years ago, attempting to end the secession of Katanga from the Congo (now Zaire), things were very different. There were then effectively only four permanent members, since the fifth seat, that of China, was still occupied by a US client, Taiwan. Of the four, only one — the United



States — gave any support to the then secretary general, Dag Hammarskjöld, in his efforts to implement a Security Council resolution calling for an end to the secession. Of the other members, the Soviet Union was demanding the resignation of the secretary general, while Britain and France — though ostensibly supporting him — were determined to sabotage his efforts.

Under those conditions, representing the secretary general in the trouble-spot of the time, Katanga, was a disconcerting experience, though most instructive about the realities of international relations. Yet even that much-troubled

international effort was eventually brought to a successful conclusion once the United States overcame its hesitations and committed itself fully to supporting the UN forces, politically and logistically. That being so, I have no doubt about the early success of the present international efforts, with the US fully committed from the beginning, and with no serious opposition except that of Iraq.

Success is inevitable, but the cost is likely to be high. On the radio yesterday, I heard an American commentator suggest that Americans and Europeans in Iraq and Kuwait are in no danger. That strikes me as an irresponsible and

unrealistic statement. Given Saddam Hussein's ferocious record, it must be assumed that he is likely to treat as hostages at least some of the Europeans and Americans within his grasp. Indeed the knowledge that by invading Kuwait he would acquire a number of American and European hostages was probably one of the factors that led Saddam Hussein to believe that he could get away with it.

Since 1979, all Middle Eastern despots have been aware of America's sensitivity and consequent vulnerability to the taking of hostages. But Saddam Hussein may well have exaggerated the importance of this. President Bush is now so committed to defeating Saddam Hussein that he cannot draw back because of threats to hostages, or even after executions. And if hostages are executed, the American public is likely to blame Saddam Hussein, and not George Bush. In countries less committed to the defeat of Iraq, public reactions might be somewhat different. In any case, the international enterprise is unlikely to be deflected.

Israel is taking Saddam Hussein's threats seriously. Gas masks are being issued to all Israelis, and I am sure other measures are being considered.

If Israel can safely come through the present period of acute danger, its international position will be greatly enhanced. As far as the US is concerned, Yasser Arafat and the PLO have put themselves permanently beyond the pale by aligning themselves with America's enemy. The alliance between the US and Israel, which had seemed obsolescent because of the end of the cold war, is renewed by Saddam Hussein's aggression.

The United States is reminded that the Middle East remains a highly unstable and unpredictable area, where America has only one reliable friend (I don't count Saudi Arabia, because its government may change when the US forces withdraw). So the Israeli government is unlikely to come under serious pressure from Washington to negotiate with the Palestinians for a long time to come.

Bernard Levin's column will appear on Saturday.

Peter Stothard, US editor, on dangerous opportunities beckoning America's defence contractors

Bandits looking for a lucky strike

In the next few days, US forces will be deployed in the desert against an adversary armed with shells full of blistering mustard gas and missiles tipped with nerve-destruction chemicals. To meet this threat each American marine will have a protective suit, but these will make it hard for them to talk, work, and remain hydrated, let alone fight in the Saudi Arabian heat and sand.

Every war leads to reconsideration of military equipment and strategy. Even before this Gulf conflict is fully under way, Pentagon officials are considering new options and defence contractors are eyeing new opportunities. Yesterday in Washington the state of anti-chemical weapon readiness was the first concern.

In 1979 President Carter's high-tech helicopter-borne assault on the American embassy in Tehran was ruined by sand in the engines. The mission to repel Saddam is vulnerable to the same elements, and the same theoretical uncertainties about operating far from home.

For the defence contractors who live alongside the Pentagon in their own "Crystal City", this

means hope. The Bush presidency has been a lean time for them.

The industry's lobbyists, with their offices on the Washington ringroad, are sometimes known as the "beltway bandits", but according to John Spratt of South Carolina, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the bandits have struggled in their attempts to suggest that threats from the Third World are replacing the threat from the Soviet Union.

They have become "a little more earnest," he says, and "more imaginative" in selling their wares. There has been a sharp increase in knocking copy — the backers of the expensive new V-22 Osprey helicopter may spend as much time extolling the strategic defence initiative or the B2 bomber as in praising their own product — but their efforts have brought little success.

The reduction in Soviet power has led legislators to change their priorities. The "peace dividend" is now at the top. The protection of local defence industry jobs, whatever their purpose, comes second. In general, they look suspiciously upon such high-tech items as the

strategic defence initiative and any commitments which smell of the cold war, such as the transport planes required for a rapid reinforcement of Europe.

Accepting what seemed the inevitable earlier this year, the administration offered Congress an \$11 billion cut in the budget for the McDonnell Douglas C-17 transport plane. Similar delays and cuts loomed for advanced air-defence fighters. Now those decisions do not look so good. Rapid deployment and air defence are central to the Saudi Arabian campaign.

Critics of defence industry opportunism have been arguing that decline in Soviet power in Europe should allow cuts in other US forces too. "A lot of the rationale for US involvement in the Third World has been the Soviet influence there," the influential Stanley R. Sloan of the Congressional Research Service said recently.

It has been pointed out that the Gulf navy patrols to protect Kuwaiti tankers from Iran in 1987 were chiefly by the need to offset Soviet forces in the region. The Carter doctrine, it is

recalled, was designed to keep the Soviets out of the Gulf, not primarily to prevent a regional power from establishing hegemony. Now, that approach looks outmoded. Is Saudi Arabia needs to be protected from a hostile neighbour, and if it is not protected, America will be staring at the wreckage of an economy that is founded upon secure supplies of reasonably-priced imported oil.

Americans' first thought has to be how to protect themselves from the most likely threat. The Kuwait crisis is an opportunity for the administration to get a better grip on a defence debate which had largely been taken from its hands.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, has already been using the past week's events as proof of the need for slow and rational defence cuts, not a crazy helter-skelter. His arguments stand a good chance of prevailing, and Saddam Hussein's ambitions will certainly be good news for defence lobbyists in future. In the business of supplying arms, one man's vicious threat soon becomes another man's competitive advantage.

However, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait will also severely test some of the claims made in past deals by contractors with the Pentagon. As the British navy found in the Falklands campaign, the proof of sophisticated military technology is how well it performs in action. Americans have not forgotten that three years ago sophisticated Gulf patrol ships were virtually crippled by the crudest low-tech floating mines, nor how the USS Stark was hit by an Iraqi missile which it should easily have shot down, nor how an Iranian civilian airliner was destroyed by a US missile-operator who thought he had a bomber in his sights.

Proof of performance in action is the best selling-point any lobbyist can have in his briefcase: the Falklands War is continually re-fought on film whenever a British salesman wants to sell some of the kit which regained Port Stanley. But failure can discredit any fancy brochure.

Since luck is the essential gift of any general, these are nervous times for those whose financial future depends on their weapons making the lucky strikes.

Labour is first with the fax

Seldom slow these days to trumpet its free-market credentials, the Labour party has stolen a public relations march on the Tories. But it does not come cheap.

In a move that should make even Conservative Central Office gulp, Walworth Road has written to all PR consultants offering them subscriptions to a new Labour facsimile information service. And the price for being at the leading edge of Labour's thinking? A crisp £1,000 a year. The Tories have their own information service for companies, but it is not visibly high-tech; it comes through the mail and sets subscribers back a mere £35 a year.

Could I have a word...?



For their hefty payment subscribers will be entitled to a full supply of the latest speeches of Mr Neil Kinnock, as well as receiving policy documents and conference

papers. Ironically, several of the companies targeted for this exercise employ Tory MPs as consultants, and have regularly been attacked by the Labour left.

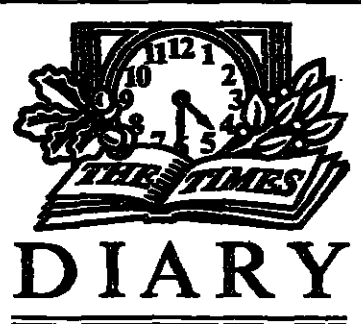
Labour MP Dennis Skinner is not impressed by this latest marketing ploy by the party's outgoing communications director Peter Mandelson. "I would not want to take money from companies that let Tory MPs moonlight from their proper jobs," he says. "This is trying to take money from suppliers with 12th paypays plants in their back gardens. It's Mandelson's last throw."

There is no indication yet whether Senator Joseph Biden, who was accused of plagiarising Mr Kinnock's speeches in the US presidential contest, will be putting his name down for a subscription.

Edwina Currie was only too willing to listen when an elderly lady "asked up to her in her South Derbyshire constituency and delivered a cascade of praise. As the former health minister beamed, the flattery flowed on and on. 'You are so wonderful' I have even written to British Telecom to tell them," she gushed. With furrowed brow, Mrs Currie inquired: "Have you got the right person?" Softly the chastened adviser replied: "You are Maureen Lipman, aren't you?"

Icon has flown

Statues of Lenin have been keeling over throughout Eastern Europe in recent months. Now the icon of the Russian Revolution has been unceremoniously removed from his vantage point in the head office of Aeroflot in London.



Visitors to the Soviet airline's Piccadilly offices have noted the disappearance of Lenin's imposing bronze bust which used to adorn an entire wall.

Aeroflot says its disappearance is simply a result of refurbishment. Could the removal not be part of glasnost? No, says Aeroflot. "There are no ideological reasons behind the decision."

Sally's switch

While media attention focuses on the need for soldiers in an age of détente, the saintly troops of the Salvation Army face a different upheaval. After more than a century at 101 Queen Victoria Street, near St Paul's, the followers of General William Booth are searching for new premises.

Booth bought the present building in 1881. It was bombed in the Blitz but has remained the army's home ever since.

"People talk with affection about 101: it's our symbolic home," says Gordon Taylor, of the Salvation Army's research centre. "We'd be reluctant to lose it."

But John Larsson, the incoming

United Kingdom commissioner, is keen to move. While the army's international headquarters will remain at Queen Victoria Street, he believes the UK arm needs a home of its own to reflect its administrative independence.

One suggestion is to move to the army's training college at Denmark Hill designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, its tower dominating the south London skyline. It was built to house the army's first cadets, who tended to be single.

"But most of our cadets are married with children now," says Captain Charles King, an army official.

Gen Booth would not approve of such upheaval. It's the sort of thing that might drive a lesser man to drink.

James Atkins may have to live with the sniffling sobriquet of "sports miniature" after his first appearance at The Oval, home of Surrey cricket club. James, the 11-year-old son of the new sports minister, Robert Atkins, opened the innings for John Major's side in a charity match to raise cash for young people in cricket sponsored by the Chancellor. Runs were in short supply — James scored a single before being bowled while his father amassed a creditable 11. Major must wish inflation was as tight as the bowling.

Is Saatchi working?

Maurice and Charles Saatchi's legendary but now troubled ad agency has long been a favourite of the Conservative party. The public, apparently, is more sceptical.

A survey due out today, puts Saatchi & Saatchi at the top of a league table of agencies, whose

advertisements have caused offence.

The Advertising Standards Authority has upheld 31 complaints against the agency covering a period of more than two years. Complaints involve its work for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and for leading high street chains such as Dixons and Currys. In contrast, the rival J. Walter Thompson agency enjoyed its bottom place in the league, provoking just two complaints.

"We hope Saatchi will take note of this," says the ASA. "We will be urging them to place the same emphasis on checking the code as JWT."

But with the adman's ability to turn bad news into good, Saatchi's managing director, Paul Bainsfair, ripostes: "As usual Saatchi is top of the league table. We're used to it. If we came bottom of the league it would show that we were being too safe and not pushing as hard as we can for our clients."

Bravado apart, Bainsfair blames the sheer number of Saatchi accounts for the volume of unwelcome complaints. "We have no intention of misleading people," he says.

What does Sir David Steel know that rest of us don't? Hat on the heels of calling for a recall of Parliament to discuss the Iraq crisis, Steel is hard at work making his Scottish retreat, Aikwood Tower, habitable. The 400-year-old building is a 50 ft high mini castle with 5 ft thick walls and narrow windows. It was built in accordance with an act of James V... to withstand intense border warfare.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

ARMS AND SADDAM

Never start a war without knowing its end. The oldest maxim in history needs retelling every time a soldier picks up a weapon. Today, the United States of America has embarked on its most daring military adventure since its defeat in Vietnam. The cause is just and deserves the active support of the whole world. Although that support has been forthcoming in principle, notably from the United Nations, so far only Britain and the rulers of Saudi Arabia have put words into deeds.

None of this lessens the need to concentrate on what the world's intentions are. Yesterday, President Bush and the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, offered a variety of objectives. Mr Bush clearly indicated that American objectives were the "withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait" and the "restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government". He said, however, that the mission of the force being sent to the Middle East was "not to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait" — a role he allocated to economic sanctions under the auspices of the United Nations. His mission was to "deter any further acts of aggression". He said, many times, that his purpose was purely defensive.

Whether these forces are ultimately to try to topple Saddam Hussein in the way that American planes once tried to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi is thus left unclear. Plainly, they are in a position to stage some sort of counter-invasion of Kuwait and attempt the expulsion of the Iraqi occupiers, in accordance with Mr Bush's stated objectives. Plainly they could sit for an eternity in the desert, an expensive insurance policy against further Iraqi aggression towards Saudi Arabia or other Middle East states.

At this stage, America is probably right to leave this lack of clarity in the air. The "pure" defence of Saudi Arabia and the later use of naval and air forces to secure an economic blockade are not mutually exclusive. Events have already made ominously clear what might be the "worst case" outcome of the past week's events: an Iraqi expansion into neighbouring territories, perhaps involving chemical weapons, possibly followed by a widespread regional destabilisation and resulting threats to the security of Israel, Jordan and the Gulf states. In these circumstances, Western interests in the future of energy supplies clearly require a precautionary presence.

But Mr Bush may soon require qualities of

statesmanship over and above those of the commander-in-chief. What, for instance, if the defensive role of his Saudi deployments is successful, but does not achieve his declared objective of restoring the sovereignty of Kuwait? A shrewd Saddam — and the man is shrewd as well as ruthless — might pull his troops and tanks back from the Saudi border but garrison his newly-annexed conquest.

Seen from the standpoint of middle America, distant states, poor and of uncertain political stability, can seem pathetically easy targets when the world is united and the might of the US and even of the Soviet Union is ranged against them. Yet few military experts would advise a ground assault on Saddam, even assuming the restoration of the Kuwaiti royal family were considered a gain proportionate to the devastating cost of such a war. Massive air strikes against key installations and a prolonged naval blockade might devastate much of Iraq, though it would also sign the death warrant of Kuwait. Whether this would topple Saddam, with or without a ground assault, is doubtful. Other Arab states would quickly lose stomach for such a fight.

Hence the crucial role of Mr Bush's rider: that the task of toppling Saddam must fall to economic sanctions. Sanctions are historically a weak weapon. The best that can be said for them here, as Mrs Thatcher said earlier this week, is that those now in prospect are unusually powerful. Force may have to be threatened in a blockade, but force used for this purpose would have behind it the authority, it would be hoped, of the United Nations. Such force would be of a different order, though with the same end, as an American air or ground assault on Iraq itself. But on such force the world must, for the time being, depend in its confrontation with Saddam.

International solidarity against Iraq depends on states such as Saudi Arabia being able to say that they have taken part in graduated pressure against Iraqi aggression. The Saudis, or other Arabs in a multilateral force, must not be left vulnerable to the accusation that they licensed the return of Western imperialism in the Middle East. Fear of this ran through the words of Egypt's President Mubarak yesterday. The task of American diplomacy is thus to convince not just the American (and British) people that Mr Bush is doing the right thing, but to convince the Middle East as well.

INTELLIGENT INTELLIGENCE

Grave consequences, for individual Britons and for British interests, have flowed from the apparent failure of MI6 to predict the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This must be counted the most serious mistake by British intelligence since the failure to indicate the timing of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands.

This time the oversight was in many ways less excusable, both because electronic surveillance has improved since 1982, and the issue in Kuwait was more straightforward. In a context of heightened tension, intelligence had to answer a straight question: was Saddam Hussein's military build-up merely intended to frighten Kuwait, or did he mean business? Margaret Thatcher is annoyed that the answer she received was the wrong one. As a result, the British ambassador in Baghdad went on holiday, British troops were left vulnerable to hostage-taking and a British jet was allowed to land in Kuwait.

Since the second world war, the quality of those working in British intelligence has been subject to periodic concern. The depressing aspect of the series of spy scandals since the war has been the mediocrity of the individuals in whom the secret services were prepared to place the nation's trust. Prime ministers since Churchill have jealously guarded their exclusive control of MI5 and MI6 and the result has not been a good advertisement for control through ministerial responsibility. From time to time there have been shake-ups, but always within the same closed intelligence community. No mining village is as tight-knit.

Mrs Thatcher knows better than most that self-regulation by closed circles of privileged — and male-dominated — professionals is not a recipe for radicalism. An experienced prime minister, demonstrably dedicated to the defence of national interests, should be well-placed to carry through a reform of British intelligence.

TRAINING ON TRACK

A political commonplace is that Britain's workforce needs to become better skilled. Unless this happens urgently, British workers after 1992 face being too highly-paid to compete with those in Spain, Portugal or Greece, and too poorly-skilled to compete with those in France, Germany or Italy. The government says it understands the importance of training, yet budgets continue to be cut and schemes are in danger of being stifled by bureaucracy.

Now a leaked memorandum shows that industrialists involved on the new Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) are distressed that their budgets are to be cut to £2.4 billion from the original estimate of £3 billion with the threat of more reductions to come; and frustrated by edicts from Whitehall that prevent them from spending their money in what they judge to be the most useful way. Labour has overplayed its hand by adding this memorandum as evidence of a "crisis in government training policy". In fact it is little more than a bargaining chip in this year's public expenditure round. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is doubtless on the TEC chairman's side in wanting more money. But the industrialists' ambivalent attitude to the government's ambivalent attitude to training, wanting industry to become more training, yet reluctant to relinquish control; wanting standards of training to improve, yet unwilling to provide the necessary money.

In a perfect market economy, all training would be provided and paid for by employers.

Here, an imperfect market has failed to deliver. Some employers train their workforce; others expect a free ride by poaching already trained workers. Pockets of high unemployment still co-exist with skill shortages. The economy would grow faster, and with lower inflation, were the square pegs to be sent to the workshop so that they fitted round holes. It is this combination of market failure and public good that justifies the spending of public money on training. The Treasury argues that, with the fall in unemployment, less money is needed for training. More, however, must still be spent on retraining workers with too few or outdated skills.

Over the past decade, the government has created and abolished training quangos with great energy but little visible result. The most encouraging change has been the recognition that employers should be more involved. The only measure of the success of a training scheme is that it equips as many trainees as possible with the skills needed to find a good job. Employers are uniquely qualified to determine what those skills should be. But if they are to run local training schemes, through the new TECs, they should be trusted to assess what skill shortages need to be addressed in their area, not forced to spend earmarked money on earmarked schemes.

Mr Howard can thus prove his commitment to training in two ways. He can give TECs the flexibility they deserve; and he can persuade the Treasury of the political and economic importance of a better-trained workforce.

Crucial test of fuel resources

From Dr Hari Sharan
Sir, Putting population growth as the prime cause of the world's current ills (Letters, July 30, August 7) ignores the fact that even if the total population of the South (where the maximum growth rates exist) had remained static at the 1950 level, the state of this planet would not now be any better. Less than 20 per cent of the world's population has steadily consumed over 80 per cent of the world's resources for the last hundred years or more and continues to burn immense quantities of fossil fuels for the sustenance of an irresponsibly wasteful lifestyle.

Without in any way contesting the dire need for the control of population in the South, I contend that a 25 per cent reduction in per capita energy consumption in the North will have a much faster impact on slowing down the catastrophic environmental slide than a 25 per cent reduction in the average population growth rate of the South. Even under the most favourable conditions, that would take more than a generation to produce any measurable effect.

This is especially true as energy conservation can be effected without extreme consequences by a conscious act of political will and foresight. Indeed the most recent oil shock may leave the politicians with no alternative.

Yours faithfully,
HARI SHARAN,
Seebachstrasse 27,
CH-8472 Seuzach, Switzerland.
August 8.

From Mr Alan Lewis
Sir, In order to allow the country as a whole to cope with the enormous escalation in petrol prices, and in view of the looming recession, should not the Government take the obvious step of reducing drastically the duty on petrol? It would certainly keep inflation down and can always be adjusted when things return to normal, if they ever do.

Public transport, particularly the British Rail service, is so chaotic that the use of motor vehicles is no longer a luxury, but an essential. The increased cost of petrol would be one more nail in our economic coffin.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN LEWIS,
Greenwood House,
7A Bayham Street, NW1.
August 7.

From Mr Robert Guy Ramsay
Sir, I think the petrol companies should be commended for the quick, nay miraculous, response to the current problems in the Middle East. Only yesterday I was able to buy some new "post-crisis petrol" which I believe was at the time not even in Britain, let alone my local garage. It will arrive next month and then be processed and delivered.

Is this a gift in my understanding of economics, or some new "Gulf tax", payable in advance (of necessity)?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT RAMSAY,
11a The Rise,
Ponteland, Northumberland.
August 7.

Choosing a bishop

From the Archdeacon of Durham
Sir, Pace the Archdeacon of York (August 1), the next Bishop of London (as of any other diocese) need not be a man of spiritual stature, integrity and intelligence. Whether or not he is an Anglo-Catholic makes little, so long as he puts the needs of the whole Church above party squabbles and ecclesiastical back-biting.

As for "mayhem" ... caused among ordinary churchgoers, my sheltered years as an archdeacon in the northern province have not exposed me to any. ("Mayhem" according to the OED, is "the crime of maiming a person so as to make him less able to defend himself"). In this respect, perhaps a couple of years at York provides more violence than a couple of decades further north?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PERRY,
7 The College, Durham.

By George

From Mr Laurence Boynton
Sir, In these days of ecumenism, the letter from the Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness (August 8) is, I would suggest, incomplete. Although the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster is usually referred to as "Basil Cardinal Hume" or "Cardinal Basil Hume" his first name is, of course, George.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE BOYNTON,
17 Darwin Road, W5.

Sisterly support

From the Mayor of Lewes, Delaware, and others
Sir, There are many links, historical and personal, between the towns of Lewes, Delaware and Lewes, Sussex. We cherish the naval shot from the War of 1812-14, embedded in the foundations of the Cannonball House; they cherish the connection of Tom Paine with the Bull Inn.

In common, therefore, with many of our fellow citizens, we are saddened to hear of the latest threat to the integrity of our sister town, The Southdown Bus Company, it seems, has recently been acquired by a holding company, Stagecoach Holdings, which, having thus gained control of the bus depot, proposes to sell it off for commercial development.

Setting the heat record straight

From Mr Michael W. Rowe

Sir, Great interest has been shown in the British record temperature of 37.1°C (98.8°F) at Cheltenham on Friday, August 3, and since many authoritative works quote higher figures than this as having been observed in Britain it seems desirable to set the record straight.

For many years the Meteorological Office accepted the reading of 100.5°F (38.1°C) at Tonbridge, Kent, on July 22, 1868, as the highest temperature ever observed in Britain (it quotes all temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit first from now on, since all the readings were taken using that scale). This figure has now been discredited, and it is difficult to see why it was ever accepted.

It is standard practice to accept only temperatures recorded in a Stevenson screen — a louvered, white-painted box designed to shield the thermometer from the Sun and to ensure a standard wind speed; other types of screen are known to give readings that are often too high, especially in hot, sunny weather. The Tonbridge observation was in a non-standard screen, and the observer reported several other very improbable readings during the hot summer of 1868.

Many authorities have also quoted, and the Meteorological Office used to accept, the readings of 100°F (37.8°C) and 99°F (37.2°C) at Greenwich Observatory on August 9, 1911, and August 19, 1932, respectively. These must be discounted for the same reason as the Tonbridge observation — they were taken in a non-standard screen.

Curiously enough, Greenwich did also possess a Stevenson screen, and on August 9, 1911, it recorded 96.6°F (35.9°C). On the same day 99°F (37.2°C) was reported from Isleworth, but although this was a Royal Meteorological Society station it was not mentioned in the *Meteorological Record* for 1911 and nothing is known about the site.

Also on the same day, 88.8°F (31.9°C) was reported at Ponders End, Enfield, in a Stevenson screen but on a non-standard type of thermometer. The highest authentic temperature recorded on August 9, 1911, was 98°F (36.7°C) at Raunds (Northamptonshire), Epsom and Canterbury, and this remained the highest temperature recorded in Britain until last week.

In his classic book, *Climate and the British Scene* (1952), the late Professor Gordon Manley, who had an unrivalled knowledge of early British weather records, suggested a figure of "over 95°F".

Global predictions
From Professor Sir Brian Pippard, FRS

Sir, Alan Franks tells us (article, August 4) that "chaos theory threatens to reduce to futility" the whole field of meteorology, and goes on to suggest that all "predictions ... about global warming must be rendered meaningless". This is a mischievous extrapolation from one simple mathematical model.

It may indeed be impossible to predict whether I shall have a fine day for my birthday party next month, but that does not make me doubt that as Christmas approaches the mean temperature will drop considerably below its present value.

There are some aspects of the weather, as of political and economic phenomena, for which a week is a long time; there are others for which one may make confident predictions over a much longer span.

One of the tasks facing students of complex chaotic systems, meteorological or social, is to discover the range of predictability in each case, and this is no easy matter. Furthermore, we must be prepared to find that some of the things we should dearly love to know for certain (like movements of the stock market) have, to use the technical term, a "horizon of predictability" so near at hand as to give science no advantage over intuition. But failure in matters of detail should not lead us to disregard expert warnings of generalized trouble ahead, whether of global recession or global heating; though we should like the experts to investigate fully, through chaosology or other studies, the reliability of their long-term forecasts, and to tell us.

Realization of the prevalence of chaos is salutary and must not be taken as a sign of failure. If, as Sir Peter Medawar used to remind us, quoting Bacon, science is "the effecting of all things possible", it is a good thing to understand which things are impossible, and will remain impossible.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PIPPARD,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Physics,
Cavendish Laboratory,
Madingley Road, Cambridge.

Barbican closure
From the General Manager of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Sir, It would be piquant if "the RSC had failed to tell the new Barbican director, Delta O'Callaghan, of their decision to close the (Barbican) theatres before they announced it to the press" (Arts, August 6); but it isn't true.

The decision was taken on January 29 in the presence of an official representative of the Corporation of the City of London, who immediately reported it to Delta; she and I met for a full briefing on January 31 and the press announcement was on February 8.

I'm sorry to spoil the fun.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BRIERLEY,
General Manager,
Royal Shakespeare Theatre,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire.
August 7.

(35°C) in south-east England in 1868 (the date of the Tonbridge reading), 1825, 1808 and 1757. All these heatwaves were in July, the most famous being in 1808 when, on "Hot Wednesday", July 13, a considerable number of animals, and apparently some field workers, died of the heat.

Dr C. E. P. Brooks, in *The English Climate* (1954), considered that the temperature on that day "probably equalled if it did not exceed the 100°F reached at Greenwich on August 9, 1911" (a record that is not now accepted). 96°F (35.6°C) was reported from Plaistow, London, and 99°F (37.2°C) from Suffolk, but as the Stevenson screen had not yet been invented the thermometers in question must almost certainly have been reading too high.

Lastly, there are "Hot Tuesdays" and "Dry Wednesdays". The former was on July 8, 1707 (July 19 by the modern calendar); as in 1808, field workers and animals died of the heat. The only reference I have to "Dry Wednesday" dates it July 21, 1513, but that was a Thursday!

Yours faithfully,
M. W. ROWE,
21 Bankview,
Lymington, Hampshire.
August 6.

From Mr Gavin Littaur
Sir, It is claimed (report, August 4) that Britain's "best summer on record" was in 1976, when temperatures of 89.8°F were recorded on 13 consecutive days. However, the atmosphere at 90°F is stuffy, soporific and generally unhealthy. It was tough going yesterday afternoon, running 300 metres nine times on our local track.

Cool air would have been more than welcome and, I suggest, a considerably underrated phenomenon in this country.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN LITTAUR,
24 Stormont Road, N6,
August 4.

From Mr Reg Egford
Sir, Your August 4 report speaks of 1909 as a year of sunshine, unrivalled except by 1989 and 1990. Yet W. H. Hudson, in chapter 1 of his *Shepherd's Life*, says:

Fine days are not so many even in the season when they are looked for — they have certainly been few during this wet and discomfortable one of 1909.

Yours faithfully,
REG EGFORD,
45 Richmond Road,
Caversham Heights,
Reading, Berkshire.

Building, sanitation, furnishing, proper facilities for visiting, work, education, leisure, and above all the relief of overcrowding can all be put right by money, and only by money. But there are no votes in prison problems, so the money has not been spent.

Governments think that the public do not care. But the conditions are so barbaric that they should be made to care, and indeed would care if the facts were properly put before them.

I most strongly endorse your suggestion that the Home Office should say, now, that it will publish any report, however "scathing", from the dreaded visit of the European Convention inspectors to which you refer. Meanwhile, may I suggest that the Chief Inspector of Prisons' report be distributed to all households, following the precedent of the Government's arguments for the reform of the NHS.

I remain, Sir, yours etc.,
DONALDSON,
House of Lords,
July 29.

Campsite mystery
From Mr Gordon Malthouse

Sir, May an 81-year-old former magazine editor who feels the weight of his years lightened by the admirable enterprise of your 12-year-old correspondents, M. Hancock and L. Houghton, who ask (August 3) how a line of type came to be on a campsite used as a hayfield for the rest of the year, suggest that it might have been a botched piece of setting which fell out of the pocket of a compositor on holiday.

Yours truly,
GORDON MALTHOUSE,
32 Downlands Road,
Purley, Surrey.

Modern classics
From Mr Cecil Gould

Sir, Mr William Douglas Home (August 2) expresses the opinion that "hotting up the classics" is "at present mercifully confined more or less to subsidised theatre directors". Would that were still the case, but unfortunately the disease spread some time ago to opera.

Since then we have endured a burlesque opera (Handel's *Xerxes*) set in a forest of deck-chairs, a *Zauberflöte* whisked to 20th-century California and a *Hansel and Gretel* (a quintessential piece of German romanticism) set in the 1920s.

The breed of operatic producer who knows better than the composer and librettist has yet to give us a *Traviata* set in a Tokyo brothel or a *Troviatore* in a Nazi concentration camp. But given time we may even look forward to such improvements.

Yours sincerely,
CECIL GOULD,
Jubilee House,
Thorncombe, Nr Chard, Somerset.
August 2.

Other side of a Liverpool coin

From Mr David Mowat

Sir, Mr Keva Coombes's letter (August 6) typifies the deep-rooted "xenophobia" of Liverpudlians and their conviction that all their problems are caused by outsiders. He blames "the disappearance of a locally-controlled private sector", when perhaps the largest privately-owned company in the UK (Littlewoods) has its head office five minutes walk from the town hall. Royal, one of the UK's largest insurance companies, is as close.

In fact the majority of Liverpudlians work for local companies. If these firms have offices in London and abroad this should be a matter of pride.

This leads us to the second obsession — that Liverpudlians will only work for a boss from the same city. That's a fine basis for attracting private-sector investment!

Then there's the need for "public resources aimed at benefiting the private sector". They are doing and have been doing that for years, with investment to regenerate the derelict docklands of £140 million to date.

Why he wants "to wait for a Labour Government" is unclear: they showed no interest in redeveloping the area during their last period of office. I stood beside a Labour Department of Industry minister, who gazed at the Albert Dock and said: "Everyone tells me it's beautiful; to me it's just a dump". Well, today it is beautiful again.

Central government grants of 15 per cent on capital equipment (up to £15,000) and 50 per cent on agreed project costs (up to £25,000) certainly help to encourage local innovation.

What local councillors must do now is to encourage their citizens to believe in themselves, to set up their own small businesses and earn the respect of "outsiders" as hard-working, never-complaining, self-reliant and successful people.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MOWAT,
Industrial development officer,
Liverpool City Council, 1974-84,
7 Freshfield Road, Formby,
Liverpool, Merseyside,
August 6.

Prison reform

From Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge

Sir, Your powerful leader (July 28) on prison conditions is both forthright and timely. The failure by successive governments to spend enough money to remedy the scandalous conditions which you describe needs explanation. It is very simply money.

Building, sanitation, furnishing, proper facilities for visiting, work, education, leisure, and above all the relief of overcrowding can all be put right by money, and only by money. But there are no votes in prison problems, so the money has not been spent.

Governments think that the public do not care. But the conditions are so barbaric that they should be made to care, and indeed would care if the facts were properly put before them.

I most strongly endorse your suggestion that the Home Office should say, now, that it will publish any report, however "scathing", from the dreaded visit of the European Convention inspectors to which you refer. Meanwhile, may I suggest that the Chief Inspector of Prisons' report be distributed to all households, following the precedent of the Government's arguments for the reform of the NHS.

I remain, Sir, yours etc.,
DONALDSON,
House of Lords,
July 29.

Death of Ian Gow
From Miss Mary Clarkson

Sir, Mr D. E. Afriat (August 1) proposes that in view of the terrible murder of Ian Gow the Conservative Party be allowed to contest the constituency of Eastbourne unopposed.

Many members of the Eastbourne electorate no doubt hold views which are in conflict with those of the Conservative Party and I am sure that many of them hold their political views with as much integrity and conviction as Mr Gow held his. To disenfranchise these people would, I believe, be a serious attack upon British democracy, an attack which has already been made by the IRA who have consistently demonstrated their contempt for the ballot box as a means of political change.

Yours faithfully,
MARY CLARKSON,
Ferry Cottage,
44 Ferry Road, Oxford.

It is good news that the three local councils with interests in the matter are united in their opposition. However, given the national and international importance of Lewes, which has been designated as one of the 51 most beautiful towns in Great Britain, we should like to express our dismay at this damaging proposal.

We hope that the bus company's first word may not prove to be its last.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED A. STANGO (Mayor),
JOHN P. ADAMS (Councillor),
HENRY P. MARSHALL
(Curator, Cannonball House).

2010 Market Street,
Lewes,
Delaware 19958,
USA.
August 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA
August 8: The Queen visited Wiltshire today and was received at Pewsey Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs).

The Queen drove to Devizes Leisure Centre and having been received by the Mayor of Pewsey (Councillor S. Rayson) opened the new swimming pool, unveiled a commemorative plaque and toured the Centre, escorted by the Chairman of Kennet District Council (Councillor Geoffrey Taylor).

Afterwards the Queen visited Warfield and was received by Mr David Ingham (Chairman of British Waterways) and the Earl Jellicoe (President of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust).

Her Majesty subsequently embarked on the *Rose of Hungerford* at the British Waterways Depot at Caen Hill and formally reopened the Kennet and Avon Canal before disembarking and unveiling a commemorative plaque.

Later the Queen visited the Garrison Church at Larkhill and was received by General Sir Martin Farnham (Commandant of British Waterways) and the Earl Jellicoe (President of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust).

Her Majesty honoured the Master Gunner and his presence at the service in the Garrison Church during which Her Majesty unveiled a Memorial to the Members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery who died on Active Service between the years 1945 and 1967.

The Reverend James Harkness (Chaplain General),

the Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallet (Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Regiment of Artillery) and the Reverend Michael Bass (Senior Chaplain to the Royal School of Artillery) were present.

The Queen later travelled to Portsmouth and having been received by the Mayor of Portsmouth (Councillor S. Rayson) embarked on HMS *Britannia* and, escorted by HMS *Active* (Captain M. A. Johnson, RN), visited for Scotland.

The Hon. Mary Morrison, the Right Hon. Sir William Heslaine, Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson and Mr Charles Anson were in attendance.

The Queen held a Council at 5.15pm.

There were present: The Right Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP (Lord President), the Right Hon. John Wakeham, MP (Secretary of State for Energy), the Right Hon. Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP (Attorney-General) and the Right Hon. Nicholas Scott, MP (Minister of State, Department of Social Security).

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

August 8: The Princess Royal this morning visited Humber-side Police Operation Lifestyle, Hull and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Humber-side (Mr Anthony Bethell).

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry V. reigned 1413-22. Monmouth, 1387; Isaac Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*, Stafford, 1593; Thomas Telford, road, bridge and canal engineer, Westkirk, Dumfries, 1757; Jean Piaget, child psychologist, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1896; Philip Larkin, poet, Coventry, 1922.

DEATHS: Maarten Tromp, Dutch admiral, killed in an engagement with the British, 1653; Frederick Marriott, novelist, Langham, Norfolk, 1848; Sir Edward Frankland, chemist, Gidea, Norfolk, 1899; Ruggiero Leoncavallo, composer, Montecatini Terme, Italy, 1919; Ernst Haeckel, naturalist, Jena, Germany, 1919; Hermann Hesse, poet and novelist, Montagnola, Switzerland, 1962; Dmitry Shostakovich, composer, Moscow, 1975.

An atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki by the USA, 1945. Gerald Ford became the 37th President of the USA, 1974.

Institution of Water and Environmental Management

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Institution of Water and Environmental Management: The Right Hon. The Lord Crickhowell, Chairman, National Rivers Authority; Professor The Lord Lewis of Newham, FRSE, Chairman, Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; Sir Hugh Rossi, MP, Chairman, House of Commons Environment Committee; Sir Gordon Jones, Chairman, Yorkshire Water PLC; Sir Michael Straker, Chairman, Northumbrian Water Group PLC; Mr L.C.R. Byatt, Director General, Office of Water Services; and Mr J. Murray, Permanent Secretary, Department of Environment for Northern Ireland.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Blunt and Miss E.H. Ames. The engagement is announced between Gerald, only son of the late Mr and Mrs G. Blunt, of Buntingford, New Zealand, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Ames, of Hursley, Sussex.

Mr N.E. Eickelsteth and Miss C. Chassepoux. The engagement is announced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs N.E. Eickelsteth, of 48 bis, Rue Bobillot, 73013 Paris, and Catherine Chassepoux, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Lawrence, Jersey, and Claudia, daughter of Mr E. Rampelli and Mrs G. Gerboni, of Rome, Italy.

Mr G.H.N. Prestige and Miss E. Rose. The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Colonel and Mrs Adrian Prestige, of Amesbury, and Elspeth, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Alastair Rose, of Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Mr S.W.G. Rawlings and Miss D. Hill. The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr Richard Rawlings, of Blackham, and Mrs Judy Rawlings, of Chichester, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Hill, of Gurney Slade, Somerset.

Mr C.K. Turner and Miss V.G.M. Palmer. The engagement is announced between Keith, elder son of Dr and Mrs C.G. Turner, of Sutton-Teddler, of Gloucestershire, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.W. Palmer, of Coventry.

Mr N.R. Van Gruisen and Miss L.P.L. Hawthorne. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs N.R. Van Gruisen, of London, and Ann Michael Van Gruisen, of Edinburgh, and stepson of Mrs Michael Van Gruisen, and his daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Birt, of Dorchester, Dorset.

Dr S.J. Whitaker and Miss J.E. Finch. The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs E.H. Whitaker, of St Marychurch, Torquay, Devon, and Judith, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.G. Finch, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Marriage

Mr L.H.N. Tedder and Miss N.J.A. Kison. The marriage took place on Saturday, August 4, at St. Stephen's Church, Bathford, of Lars, only son of Mr and Mrs G. Tedder, of Godstone, Surrey, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mrs A.L. Mellor, of Bath, and Mr D.J.G. Kison, of Bristol.

The bride was attended by Miss Deborah Kison, Miss Jennifer Kison, Holly Mitchell and Master Tom Stokes. Mr Grant Nicholas was best man. The bride was given away by her brother Dr Jeremy Kison.

The reception was held at the Bath Lodge Hotel.

Mr T.R. Palloway and Miss J.M. Petrie. The engagement is announced between Thomas Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. Palloway, of Burlington, Canada, and Jacqueline Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.T. Petrie, of Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

Mr E.P.G. Pitts and Miss C. Rampelli. The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of the late Dr Geoffrey Turner Pitts and of Mrs W. Scott-Cole, of St Lawrence, Jersey, and Claudia, daughter of Mr E. Rampelli and Mrs G. Gerboni, of Rome, Italy.

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OBITUARIES

GENERAL LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, who commanded the United States 6th Marine Division in the battle for Okinawa in 1945, died in La Jolla, California, on August 6. He was 94.



THE battle for Okinawa which raged for three months in the spring and summer of 1945, was one of the bloodiest of the Pacific war, and for most of the time the US 6th Marine Division led by Lemuel Shepherd was in the thick of the fighting. The Americans were never under any illusions that Okinawa was going to be a tough nut to crack. Ruggedly hilly and heavily forested, it provided a terrain ideal for defenders to exact heavy casualties from the invader. Nevertheless the rationale behind the decision to attack it, even after the sanguinary experience of Iwo-Jima, was based on a perception of its strategic importance. The largest island of the Ryukyu chain, 60 miles long and eight miles wide, it provided the only practical military and naval base for the invasion of Japan, 340 miles away, while an air force operating from it would be able to dominate Japanese-held parts of China as well as Japan itself. American intelligence estimated that Okinawa was held by almost 100,000 Japanese troops who constituted the 32nd Army of General Ushijima.

D-Day for the landings was set for April 1, and after a fortnight of massive bombing raids to neutralise the Japanese air threat, the first of 170,000 US combat troops got ashore on a five mile front. Resistance was almost negligible and the Americans were astonished to be able to seize two airfields and apparently advance at will. Sixty-thousand men had been put ashore by evening with almost no casualties.

This success and the beguiling

sense of easy victory were illusory. As the Americans pushed inland and resistance stiffened they realised they had walked into a massive ambush from Japanese forces strongly dug into the limestone ridges which formed the backbone of the island. From there they were able to direct a murderous fire from their skillfully handled light artillery onto the attackers.

As with Iwo-Jima, the Okinawa campaign swiftly opened into a nightmare, which was compounded for the covering naval forces by blank

et attacks from kamikaze planes. Shepherd and his 6th Marine Division struck northward against Japanese troops holed up in a formidable defensive position in the rocky and forest-covered Motobu peninsula. By his clever infiltration tactics, however, Shepherd was able to encompass their surrender without the interminable carnage which characterised the campaign elsewhere. Indeed his losses were only a tenth of those of the Japanese, a proportion not reflected in the fighting for Okinawa as a

whole. But the 6th's effort was not yet over. With Japanese resistance in the south of the island requiring the straining of every nerve to overcome it, Shepherd's division now joined the general advance in that direction which was making little headway against the Japanese who were able to fire against it from deep caves in the hills. Had the Japanese persisted with defensive tactics action might have been even more prolonged. But such a course was not in keeping with the Bushido warrior psychology which characterised Japanese thinking. In May their commanders decided on a counter-offensive which the Americans repulsed with heavy losses. Striking southwards with great speed, Shepherd's division eventually captured Naha, Okinawa's capital, after 82 days in combat. Japanese resistance finally came to an end in early July, with Ushijima and his entire staff committing hara-kiri.

Shepherd, who was born in Norfolk, Virginia, had been a combat veteran of the first world war. He had even graduated from the Virginia military institute a year early in 1917, so that he could see service in France when the United States entered the war. He was decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French for his bravery at Belleau Wood, and took part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive which forced the Germans back to the Aisne after tough fighting. Between the wars he had worked as a junior aide to President Harding and later served in Haiti. His last act in the second world war was to receive the surrender of Japanese forces at Tsingtau, China. He finally rose to become commandant of the US Marine Corps in 1952, and was the first marine to serve on the joint chiefs of staff committee.

GORDON BUNSHAFT

Gordon Bunshaft, American architect who helped shape New York's corporate skyline, died in that city aged 81 on August 6. He was born on May 9, 1909.

GORDON Bunshaft was one of the most prolific and successful modern architects in the United States but one whose name was not as widely known as his achievements deserved because all his buildings were publicly attributed to the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. This was the firm founded in Chicago in 1935 by the three architects, whose name it retained long after they had died, or retired, and which became one of the largest and best known in America with offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco and among the most highly respected for the quality of its work.

Its reputation was largely due to the standard set by Bunshaft, who became chief designer in the firm's New York office in 1937. Among the buildings for which he was responsible was Lever House in Park Avenue, New York

(completed in 1952), which set the style of the fully-glazed, curtain-walled office tower limited all over the world. In 1983 it was declared a New York landmark, one of the first modern buildings to be so protected after being threatened by a property developer. Among the buildings in Europe Bunshaft was responsible for were the HJ Heinz Company's English headquarters at Hayes Park, Middlesex (1965), and the Banque Lambert in Brussels, completed in the same year.

Bunshaft's buildings were always elegantly planned and impeccably finished. Their evident high quality played a large part in persuading business and industrial corporations to value good architecture as a contribution to their public image, resulting in American big business becoming enlightened patrons of architecture in a way unknown in most other countries.

His eye for stylish design was supplemented by an active interest in the other arts, which he was always eager to incorporate in his buildings.

His knowledge and appreciation of sculpture was outstanding - witness the sculpture garden he designed in 1974 at the Hirshhorn Museum at Washington. Several monumental works of sculpture, notably by Isamu Noguchi and Henry Moore, adorn his buildings, a prominent example being the bronze figure by Moore outside the Banque Lambert at Brussels. He became a close friend of Moore's, always visiting him at his house in Hertfordshire when he came to England.

Born to Russian immigrant parents at Buffalo, New York state, Bunshaft studied architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gaining his bachelor's degree in 1933 and his master's two years later. After a couple of years spent travelling in Europe (where he met Walter Gropius) and North Africa, Bunshaft joined Skidmore, Owings and Merrill with whom he was to remain for 42 years before retiring in 1979. During the second world war he served in the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to Lever House, other notable buildings for whose design he was responsible included the Pepsi-Cola Building (1959) and the Union Carbide Building (1961), both in New York, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University (1963), the Hilton Hotel, Istanbul (1955), a group of buildings for the University of Texas (1971) and airport buildings at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (1975).

Lewis Mumford once praised the Pepsi-Cola Building as "an impeccable achievement. It says all that can be said delicately, accurately, elegantly with surfaces of glass."

His architecture brought him many awards including the Pritzker Prize in 1988. Bunshaft's interest in the arts was reflected in his membership of the US President's Commission on the Fine Arts and by his appointment as a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

In 1943 he married Nina Elizabeth Weyer who survives him.

GEBHARD MÜLLER

Gebhard Müller, prime minister of Baden-Württemberg from 1953-59 and president of the West German Federal Constitutional Court from 1959-1971, died in Stuttgart at the age of 90 on August 7. He was born on April 17, 1900.

A CATHOLIC lawyer who stood firmly against the Nazi authorities before the second world war, Gebhard Müller played a major role in the creation of the state of Baden-Württemberg in 1952 and went on as head of the country's ultimate legal authority to interpret and strengthen the federal Basic Law, the foundation stone of West German democracy.

Born into the large family of a Swabian teacher, Müller grew up absorbing the locally much-prized virtues of hard work and thrift, which were a hallmark of his later life. After brief military service at the end of the first world war, he became a student of theology and then law in Berlin, where he came under the influence of Carl Schmitt, the social reformer. Once qualified, he began practising in Rottenburg, south of Würzburg, at the same time becoming active in the Centre Party there. Unlike many of his colleagues he held true to his pure interpretation of the law despite pressure from the Nazi authorities. Working in Göttingen, near Stuttgart, at the time of the Kristallnacht in 1938, he drew up a report on the burning down of the synagogue there, urging that charges be pressed for breach of the peace and arson. He was promptly transferred and given a minor job in the army.

Immediately after 1945 Müller was recruited by the French military government to help re-establish a legal system in the old state of Württemberg-Hohenzollern, rapidly being appointed as ministerial director in the justice department in Tübingen and deputy justice minister.

Resuming his political activities, Müller became one of the founders of the Christian Democrats (CDU) and was chosen as prime minister of Württemberg-Hohenzollern in 1948. With the borders of the German Länder being redrawn, he decided that there should be a merger of the three states in the south west to form Baden-Württemberg. With other like-minded politicians, he formed an alliance against both the French occupying power and Konrad Adenauer to argue successfully for the new large state, which came into being in 1952.

The following year, as leader of the strongest party in the state parliament, Müller headed an all-party coalition government which set about the task of harmonising the legislation of the three former states to create a sound basis for the new state. In 1959, when asked for the third time in his career to become president of the Constitutional Court, he accepted.

His unspectacular, but essential role was to ensure that the Basic Law developed into a solid, viable basis for a democracy. His success is clear from the fact that the Basic Law, with only very minor modifications, is to be adopted as the constitution of a united Germany.

He was responsible for the reconstruction of St Peter's Library, and even after he retired in 1963 he remained part-time librarian. From 1935 to 1955 Houghton had also acted as lecturer in English literature to Oriel College.

Houghton was the general editor of *The New Clarendon Shakespeare*, editing or co-editing himself seven of its 20 volumes between 1938 and 1970. He also edited Books IX and X of Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1969).

The eldest son of Canon E.J.W. Houghton, a former headmaster of Rossall School, Houghton was educated at Clifton College, going to Oxford in 1915 as a scholar of Christ Church. He gained a first class in classical honours in 1916, and a second class in 1917, taking his BA in 1921. He then went to Westminster School to teach classics, but by that time he was feeling strongly the attraction of English literature. In 1923 he was awarded the Matthew Arnold Prize at Oxford. In 1924 he took Holy Orders.

He is survived by his second wife, Charlotte, and two sons and one daughter from his first marriage.

He became the first senior tutor of St Peter's Hall, and held that post until the outbreak of the second world war upset the normal life of the university. Rector of the country parish of Hanborough from 1940 to 1945, though coming into Oxford regularly to teach his pupils, Houghton

strongly opposes the illegal killing of protected birds of prey. Its studies suggest that although a single pair of harriers can take up to 250 grouse chicks, the impact is unlikely to be significant on moors with large grouse populations which are the only ones where shooting is economically viable.

The conservancy is more concerned at the cyclical problem of disease, and by the loss of heather moorland caused by the over grazing of sheep and by the spread of bracken and grasses. It recently launched a project with Strathclyde University to examine ways of using herbicides to combat the spread of grasses.

Moorland owners, the RSPB and the Nature Conservancy Council remain united in opposing the growing demand for free public access to all areas of open moorland which, they feel, would be damaging to all forms of wildlife including grouse.

Killing of protected birds mars grouse moor management

By JOHN YOUNG

GROUSE moor managers are deliberately killing hen harriers, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, Ian Press, director general of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), says in a statement issued today. The grouse season opens on Monday, since this year the Glorious Twelfth falls on a Sunday.

"Hen harriers suffer this persecution because they eat and disturb grouse, but they need not necessarily affect grouse numbers," Mr Press says. "Some moorland owners run well managed moors with good grouse shoots which also support harriers. Others should follow their example and not resort to illegal persecution."

This year, the society has received 17 reports of nests destroyed or birds killed in Scotland and Wales and one bird poisoned in England. Last year, a nest on an RSPB reserve was destroyed by being stamped on and 32 incidents of hen harrier

persecution involving at least 85 eggs, young and adult birds were reported to the society. Only about 500 pairs of hen harriers breed in Scotland, with a mere 30 pairs remaining in England and Wales. A survey in 1988 revealed that on moorland managed for grouse shooting, only 25 per cent of harrier nests were successful, compared with 75 per cent on unmanaged moors.

Since 1973, the RSPB has received 167 reports of hen harrier persecution, 99 of them in Scotland. They involved the destruction or theft of at least 450 eggs, young or adults. The majority of these reports were received in the last three years.

The hen harrier, which is specially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, once bred on moors, heaths and marshes across Britain. But by the end of the 19th century it had been wiped out from England, Wales and most of Scotland.

John Gillibrand, curate at Caernarfon, spoke hardly a word of Welsh five years ago, but now not only speaks the language fluently but regularly preaches in Welsh. It hadn't been easy but it had been fun, he said. Learning Welsh had been a condition of his admission to the priesthood in the Church of Wales.

He preached his first sermon in Welsh at Christmas three years ago. "But when I look at the script now I blush to think what the Bethesda congregation felt."

Today he said he preferred to lead worship in Welsh - it had added much to his spiritual life. Mr Gillibrand, who comes from Eccles in Lancashire, moved to Wales with his family and wanted to stay in Wales. When he spoke to his bishop five years ago he recommended that to join the priesthood he must learn Welsh.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Stephens Brothers in Bishopham, Blackpool, at 10.45. The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the British Deaf Association, will attend the charity's centenary congress at the Brighton Centre at noon.

Birthdays today

Mr D.W. Astor, chairman, CPRE, 47; Sir Philip Beck, chairman, John Mowlem and Company, 56; Sir Ewen Broadbent, civil servant, 66; the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, former Bishop of Aston, 56; Professor Elizabeth Cunniff, botanist, 61; Mr Tam Dabry, MP, 58; Baroness Denning, 83; Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 67; Sir Christopher Laidlaw, company director, 68; Mr Rod Laver, tennis player, 52; Sir Frank Layfield, QC, 69; Rear-Admiral G.C. Ross, 90; Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman, Allied Dunbar Assurance, 59; Major-General Sir Christopher Welby-Everard, 81; Mr J.V. Wellesley, former chairman, Charles River Group, 57; Lord Young of Dartington, 75.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
Rear Admiral N Purvis to be promoted to Rear Admiral and

to be Chief of Fleet Support in succession to Vice Admiral Sir Jock Slater in January 1991. This appointment carries with it membership of the Admiralty Board of the Defence Council.

Captain R.F. Cobbold to be promoted to Rear Admiral and to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff Operational Requirements (Sea) in succession to Rear Admiral C.L. Wood in February 1991.

Captain C.C. Morgan to be promoted to Rear Admiral and to be Naval Secretary in succession to Rear Admiral D.S. Dobson in December 1990.

Luncheon
British-Nigeria Association
The President of the British-

Nigeria Association, Mr Gordon H. Wilson, CBE, hosted a luncheon on Wednesday, August 8, at the Royal Overseas League, St James's, for his Excellency Chief Emeka Anyanwu, CBE, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Those present included the Chairman of the Association, Mr D.R. Reeves and members of the Executive Committee together with Vice-Presidents of the Association, His Excellency George Dwyer-Evans, the High Commissioner for the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the United Kingdom, the Right Hon. Lord Grey of Naunton, CBE, CVO, OBE, General (Dr) V.D. Gowon and The Viscount Boyd of Merion.

Nature's way of helping you to slow down?

The popularity of herbal remedies to cope with stress has boomed during the past two years. But how safe are they? Victoria McKee investigates

Herbal remedies have been used to counteract life's stresses for more than 4,000 years, and many have been readily obtainable from British chemists and health food shops for the past 50 or 60. Only recently have they been so slickly packaged and promoted, in what the stress expert Professor Cary Cooper calls "a sad sign of the times" but others, such as Larry Neild, founder of the counselling agency Tranxline, hail as a welcome weaning away from synthetic tranquillizers.

Herbal and homeopathic concoctions such as Natracalm, Calm Life, Kalms and SuNerve, some a mixture of herbs and vitamins, promise relief from nervous tension, worry, irritability and "the stress and strain of everyday life".

Those with product licence (PL) numbers have been licensed under the Medicines Act of 1968 and are being reviewed by the Committee for the Review of Medicines, set up in 1975, which is due to complete its study by the autumn.

Professor William Asscher, chairman of the Committee for the Safety of Medicines and former chairman of the Committee for the Review of Medicines, says: "If they have a licence, and you can tell if they do from the PL numbers on the bottles, they are not known to be dangerous. But the 39,065 products already on the market when the Medicines Act became active in 1969 were granted a licence as of right."

Licensed products must meet standards of "quality, safety and efficiency", Professor Asscher says. "But it was said that if the product was to be used for a minor, self-regulating condition the committee was prepared to accept anecdotal evidence of efficacy, to be reviewed by May 1990, a deadline which has now stretched to November."

But stress is "certainly not minor—a lot of stress-related diseases are major," Professor Asscher says. "But I suppose to some extent it is self-regulating. These preparations should say, 'If you don't get better in so many days, see your doctor', but it's very difficult to police these things."

Quiet Life is one of the more successful treatments from G.R. Lane Health Products, a family business celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. Lane also makes Kalms, which have sold, like Quiet Life, in Britain since before the Medicines Act.

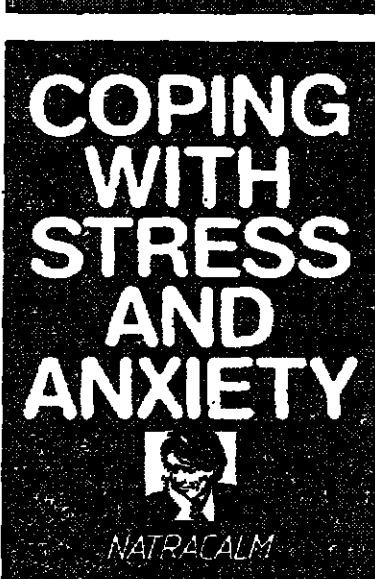
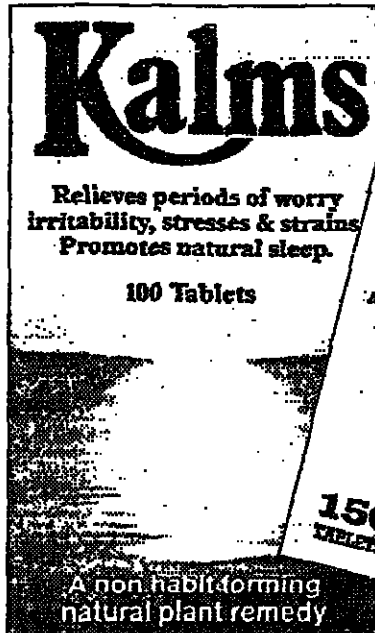
"Quiet Life contains B vitamins in addition to the herbs," says Vere Audley, the marketing and advertising manager of G.R. Lane. Both contain valerian, but Kalms mixes it with hops (humulus lupulus), yellow gentian and asafetida, while Quiet Life adds leonurus cardiaca, lactuca virosa, hops, passionflower and vitamins B1, B2 and nicotinamide. During the past two years sales of both brands have shot up by more than 10 per cent a year, a growth rate he attributes to "more aggressive marketing and a greater interest in natural remedies as opposed to synthetic."

Tim Horne, who was the product manager for Calm & Clear when it was relaunched under Seven Seas' New Era label 18 months ago, says: "We simply re-packed Stress, a product we had a licence for which wasn't doing very well, and brought it upmarket to appeal to a different type of consumer. Now sales have really picked up."

Calm & Clear costs £3.99 for 150 "non habit-forming" tablets, which are meant to be taken four at a time, "acute cases every half hour until relief is obtained and thereafter three doses daily before meals".

The Queen's homeopathic physician, Dr Ronald Davey, honorary research director of The Blackie Foundation Trust, is sceptical of Calm & Clear's claims. "Homeopathy is prescribed individually and a patient who is stressed will clearly have a specific reason for the stress," he says. "There is no magic homeopathic remedy for stress because that's not how it works. It's a holistic approach. If there is a reason for the stress then just taking a pill is not facing up to the reality. Stress is something to be taken seriously."

Larry Neild, founder of Tranxline and a leading lay expert on tranquillizers, agrees: "People no doubt want to pick up a bottle and feel marvellous



minutes later. But they should be looking instead at their lifestyle and diet." He warns that results could be "disastrous" if people switched abruptly from addictive drugs to herbal tranquillizers. "Deep abdominal breathing is the best method of stress-relief I know, and a lot of the answer is dietary."

He recommends "a good cup of chamomile tea for relaxing". Chamomile is an ingredient in herbal tranquillizers such as Jessop Marketing's Calm Life, formerly Tranquilizer, a "traditional herbal remedy for the symptomatic relief of restlessness and irritability". It also contains valerian and dry extract of skullcap, herbs that had doubts cast on them in an article in the *British Medical Journal* last year.

Four women, three of whom had taken Kalms and one Neurelax, began to suffer from jaundice. The authors, five doctors (two from Tyneside, three from Scotland), suggested that "skullcap and valerian are the most likely hepatotoxic components" and pointed out that Kalms tablets contained skullcap as well as valerian

before 1984, although the formulation has since changed. The doctors said identifying toxic components in herbal medicines was a problem because the medicines contained multiple ingredients, some of the components were possibly not pure, and not all components were listed or even known.

Lesley Bremness, author of *The World of Herbs* (Ebury Press), says: "It was more likely to have been some chemical in the water used than the herbs." She feels that "the medical profession will pick up on the least criticism of herbal remedies."

Mr Neild says: "Valerian is infinitely better than Valium." Ms Bremness says: "At least these things are non-addictive." Professor Asscher says: "We are well aware of placebo effects, and they are not to be sneezed at."

Professor Cooper, author of several books on stress, says: "People who take the trouble to buy these things may unconsciously start making other efforts to take better care of themselves at the same time. So they could seem effective because of that."

Which? magazine looked at the rules governing herbal remedies last month. The government's Medicines Control Agency has rejected names which imply that the remedy might be suitable for treating serious conditions. It insisted that a product called Insomnia and Nervous Tension Remedy had to be renamed.

The Consumers' Association welcomed the MCA's tough stance, and criticised the lack of on-pack guidance about the length of time over which the remedies could be taken.

Maurice Hansen, chairman of the Natural Medicine Society and a campaigner for the continued freedom to sell — and buy — natural medicines and dietary supplements, is fighting proposed EC regulations that would tighten up the market. "The Common Market is asking whether these products are needed. I say, can you define a need for Belgian chocolates?"

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Putting Down's to test

THE misery and sense of foreboding experienced by a patient awaiting the results of an HIV test has been well chronicled. Less well publicised, but equally distressing, is the much longer wait that pregnant women endure after an amniocentesis before learning if the unborn child they have carried for 17 weeks has Down's syndrome or any of the other chromosomal abnormalities which can be detected by cellular analysis. At present, the standard wait is three weeks, the time taken for the cells extracted from the intrauterine fluid by amniocentesis to grow in the laboratory, but research workers in Britain and America have been working for 20 years to perfect a testing system that is quicker and will give equally reliable results.

Last month an American company, Encor, from Gaithersburg, Maryland, started to market a test that can detect Down's syndrome

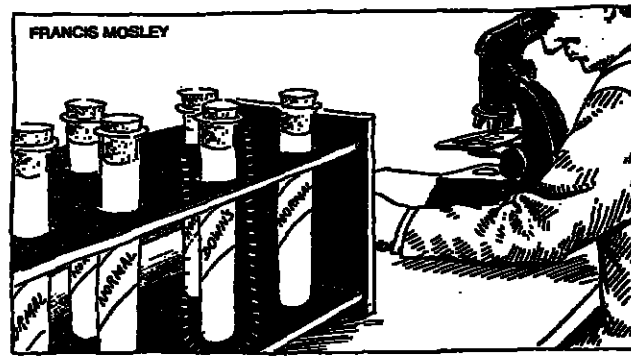
in one day rather than three weeks. The manufacturers recommend that this test should still be used in combination with traditional chromosomal analysis. Down's syndrome is the result of a baby having three, rather than two, copies of chromosome 21; an abnormality that occurs in one in 800 pregnancies in younger women, one in 100 by the time the woman is 40 and one in about 40 by the time she is 45.

The Gaithersburg test relies on genetic probes, which attach themselves to the chromosome under examination. The probes show up as fluorescent spots under a micro-

scope, so that the number of copies of chromosome 21 can be counted. If two are present all is well; if there are three, the baby has Down's syndrome.

American scientists have no monopoly in this research. Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, formerly of Glasgow and now at Cambridge University, has been working on chromosome painting since the 1970s, and is using tests similar to those marketed by Encor in his research at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. Professor Ferguson-Smith adds a note of caution: "It is a complicated technique with many stages, at any of which something can go wrong. When it works, it enables the doctor to give the mother a preliminary report, but the test still has to be used in conjunction with traditional chromosomal analysis, not only so that Down's syndrome can be confirmed but also so that a host of other chromosomal abnormalities, such as Edward's syndrome, involving chromosome 18, and Patau's syndrome, involving chromosome 12, can be detected."

Professor Ferguson-Smith says that the principle of the test is well accepted and that it is now only a matter of developing a foolproof and reliable system. He believes that within a year the new fast testing will become available in Britain outside research units.



Dangers of a kitchen cat

MARY PAUL, aged 79, of Weston, near Bath, died after suffering an unprovoked attack from her neighbour's tom cat, BJ. The wounds the neutered tom inflicted on her arms and legs were so bad that she had to be admitted to hospital for skin grafting. While in hospital she developed a fatal pulmonary embolism (a clot which blocks an important blood vessel in the lung).

Cat lovers explain that however unfortunate BJ's behaviour was, the death was not due directly to the cat, but rather to Mrs Paul's enforced immobilisation which allowed the clot that had formed in her leg to migrate to the lung. The cat's aggression was puzzling, as after castration and reduction in testosterone levels tom cats are expected to lie purring by the fireside.

Apart from the obvious dangers of cats spreading salmonella and other forms of food poisoning, or smothering babies as they seek the warmth of a pram, they can cause disaster in more specific ways. They spread the mysterious illness cat scratch fever, which transmits toxoplasmosis, and are a frequent cause of asthma and other allergies, so much so that Professor Tom Platt-Mills recently called for cats, as well as carpets, to be washed regularly.

The organism responsible for cat scratch fever has never been isolated, but a few days after a cat scratch a massive develops at the site. Within two weeks, the lymphatic glands filtering the area have become swollen and painful and may later break down and thereafter they persistently discharge pus. Meanwhile, the patient feels wretched, has a

severe headache, runny eyes and a high temperature. In the worst cases, encephalitis complicates the outcome. Tetra-cyclin is prescribed, but surgery to remove infected glands may be necessary.

Toxoplasmosis is caused by a small parasite, which spends a crucial part of its life cycle in a cat's gut, from where it is spread, via faeces, to other animals, including humans. In adults, it causes no more than a glandular fever-type disease, but if caught by a pregnant woman (and always provided that it doesn't precipitate a miscarriage) there is a 35 per cent chance of the baby being affected, with danger of blindness and mental retardation. Infection in small children can also lead to retinal damage. As a rule, neutered toms are more likely to be a danger to life in the kitchen or nursery than the back alley.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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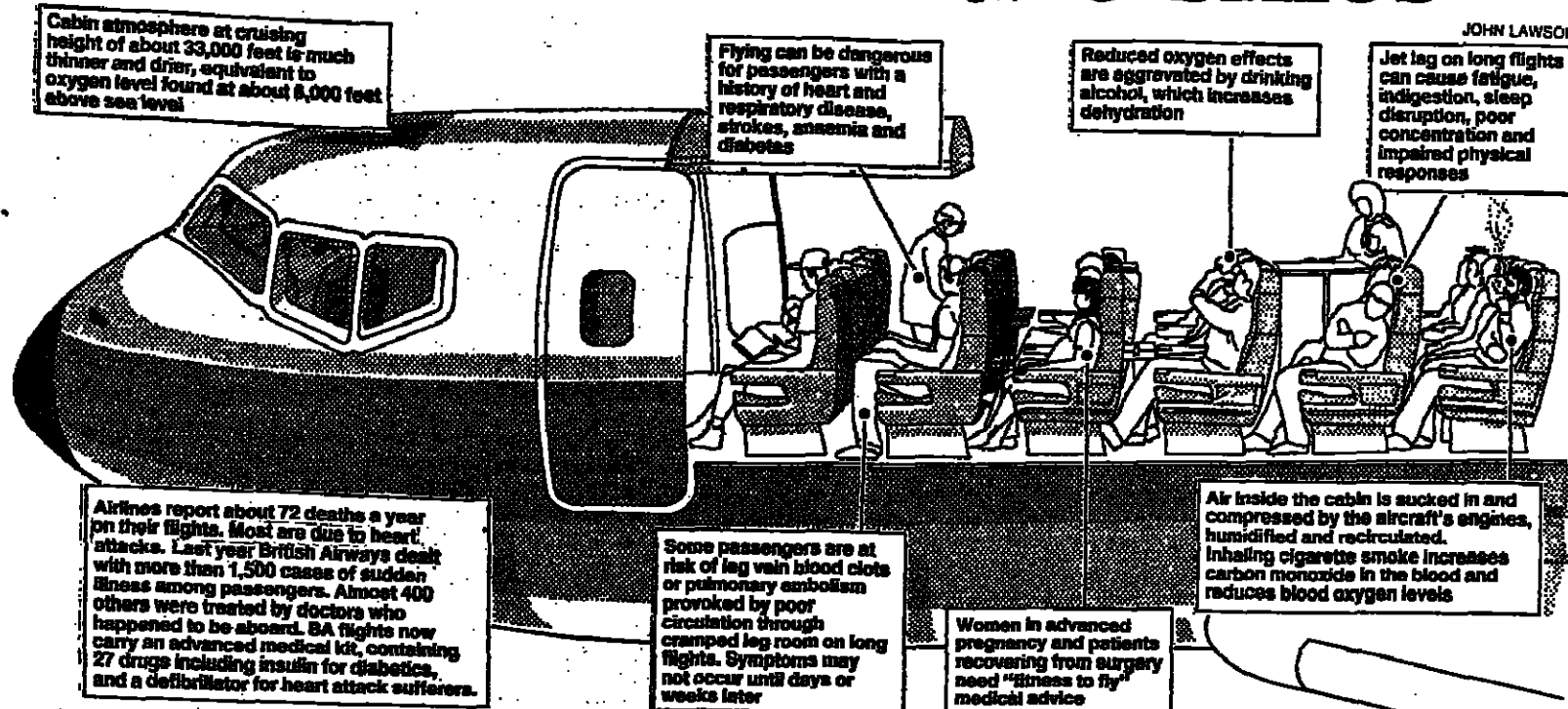
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HEALTH & SCIENCE

A sickness in the skies



For many people, air travel can induce a host of maladies, from jet lag to fatal heart attacks, Thomson Prentice reports

A call by the World Health Organisation and the British Medical Association earlier this week for a total ban on smoking in passenger aircraft has prompted a wider debate on the health risks involved in flying.

The idea of hurling at 500mph or more six miles above the ground in a pressurised metal tube causes little anxiety in most of the millions of people who fly every year.

Their lack of fear is well founded. Civil aviation has proved itself, statistically, to be the safest of all forms of transport. But apart from the risks of disaster due to mechanical failure or human error, dangers still lurk for many passengers.

For those with illnesses such as heart and respiratory disease, anaemia, gastro-intestinal complaints and diabetes, and for women in advanced pregnancy and patients recovering from surgery, a flight can be laden with problems.

In addition, the symptoms of jet lag, including fatigue, indigestion, sleep pattern disruption, impaired physical responses and lack of concentration, produce a hangover effect lasting days and even weeks for many otherwise healthy travellers.

Many of the problems are discussed in a new book, *The Curse Of Icarus*, by F.S. Kahn (Routledge, £19.99) to be published next Thursday. The

author calls for comprehensive research into health risks in air travel.

Death in the air from such problems is a rare event. According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* two years ago, only 577 in-flight deaths were recorded during eight years by 42 airlines. Of these, most victims were middle-aged men suffering heart attacks, but two-thirds were passengers who went on board with no health problems recorded by the airline.

"With so many people flying, deaths during air travel can be expected on the basis of sheer numbers alone," the authors of the study said. "In addition, some passengers who board the airplane in ill health may die when they experience deterioration in their conditions."

Such reactions may be due to factors that have no discernible effect on most air travellers, but they need to be acknowledged by all. Although the cabin air pressure is carefully controlled, at a cruising height of about 33,000ft it is roughly equivalent to the oxygen level at 6,000ft above sea level. The air within the cabin has been sucked in and compressed by the aircraft's engines, and

circulated with added humidification. Even so, it is thinner, drier, and according to some experts, more contaminated than the normal atmosphere.

Alistair MacMillan, of the Royal Air Force Institute of Aviation Medicine, says the standard aircraft ventilation system employs filters that are no more sophisticated than the filter tip of a cigarette.

"There is no active removal of the chemicals in the air inside an aircraft. It is simply humidified and recirculated. There is considerable debate about how useful filters are in screening out cigarette smoke." Breathing in cigarette fumes on an aircraft significantly increases the blood saturation of carbon monoxide, reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood. "That would aggravate circulatory and respiratory disorders," Dr MacMillan says.

Concern about the effects of passive smoking, the involuntary inhalation of cigarette smoke by non-smokers, is the chief reason for the campaign by the World Health Organisation and the British Medical Association to have smoking banned from all flights.

Martin Jarvis, a senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, says cigarettes produce up to 4,000 chemicals, of which 60 are carcinogenic.

A recent study involving non-smoking passengers and flight attendants in the United States showed that they had measurable levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, in their urine after a four-hour flight on which some passengers smoked.

Irritation of the eyes, nose and throat were also reported by the volunteers who took part in the study.

Hypoxia, or lack of oxygen, has an impact not only on smokers, but drinkers, because alcohol enhances and mimics the condition through dehydration. People who are tired or who have severe head colds, may also be affected. The problem is compounded by sitting for hours in the cramped conditions of a crowded aircraft, with little exercise for the lungs.

Such conditions can have severe effects that might, in rare cases, be fatal, according to British and American doctors, who described "economy class syndrome" as a new hazard in *The Lancet* two years ago.

Some passengers were at risk of blood clots in their leg veins, or of pulmonary embolism, a sudden blockage of a heart artery, brought on by being hunched up with little leg room on long flights, the

doctors said. Flights as short as three to four hours could be potentially dangerous, but the symptoms might not manifest themselves until days or even weeks after the journey.

Even relatively young passengers, without a history of cardiovascular disease, could be vulnerable.

About ten of 61 sudden deaths recorded among passengers at Heathrow airport during a three-year period were probably due to a pulmonary embolism, the doctors said.

Some large airlines are taking steps to improve their response to in-flight emergencies. Earlier this year, British Airways introduced a new medical kit, containing 27 drugs, including an aerosol spray for angina sufferers, insulin for diabetics and defibrillators, which can revive heart attack sufferers by delivering a mild electric shock to the heart.

The airline was acting on the evidence of the previous year, when its cabin attendants dealt with 1,540 cases of sudden illness among passengers, and doctors who happened to be aboard came to the aid of 397 travellers.

In the United States, the flying regulations are less comprehensive. "The airlines remain dependent on good Samaritan health professionals, who are asked to come forward in the event of an emergency," the authors of the *JAMA* study reported.

Nature's cycle is being smoked out

Widespread burning of tropical rainforests and savannah grassland may be interfering with the Earth's natural nitrogen cycle and causing significant amounts of nitrogen-containing pollutants to be released into the atmosphere, according to a new study.

Such biomass burning is known to contribute to rising levels of carbon dioxide, the prime warming gas, but the report, in *Nature* magazine today, suggests that in the tropics the burning is resulting also in the emission of large amounts of nitrogen-containing gases such as nitric and nitrous oxide.

Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas with a capacity to seal in the Earth's heat, which is 250 times more powerful, molecule for molecule, than that of carbon dioxide. Nitric oxide is no less of an environmental hazard. A highly reactive chemical, it leads to the formation of both ozone pollution and nitric acid, a prime component of acid rain.

Some estimates suggest that the burning of tropical rainforests may contribute up to 20 per cent of all emissions of carbon dioxide resulting from human activity, making it the second biggest source after fossil fuel combustion.

Jürgen Lobert and colleagues at the Max Planck Institute in Mainz, West Germany, who carried out the new research, say tropical burning also accounts for about 20 per cent of all emissions of nitrogen oxide gases,

How rainforest fires worsen the greenhouse effect

and produces more hydrogen cyanide gas than cars and industry.

The most startling result of the study is that when vegetation burns, as much as 50 per cent of all the nitrogen held within it is emitted in the form of molecular nitrogen, which comprises 78 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere.

The nitrogen cycle is the name given to the process whereby plants soak up nitrogen gas, just as they soak up carbon dioxide, and micro-organisms return it to the atmosphere. Living plants and trees, unlike animals, are able to convert stubbornly unreactive atmospheric nitrogen to a chemically useful form.

Previously, it was believed that nitrogen held in vegetation was returned to the Earth's atmosphere solely through the efforts of soil microbes known as denitrifying bacteria.

As dead trees and plants rot, these bacteria devour their nitrogen-containing substances, liberating nitrogen gas as an unwanted by-product of their meal.

Though the speed with which soil bacteria are able to recycle nitrogen is unknown, the researchers show that forest fires are likely to be extremely efficient at pumping it back into the atmosphere.

From their results, which were obtained by measuring the relative amounts of different nitrogen-containing gases produced from wood burning in a specially designed laboratory furnace, the researchers estimate that tropical biomass burning emits nitrogen gas at a rate equal to between 9 and 20 per cent of the rate at which the gas is re-absorbed by plants.

Dr Joel Levine, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Langley Research Center in the United States, says that the newly forged link between tropical burning and the natural nitrogen cycle is "neither a good nor a bad thing for the environment".

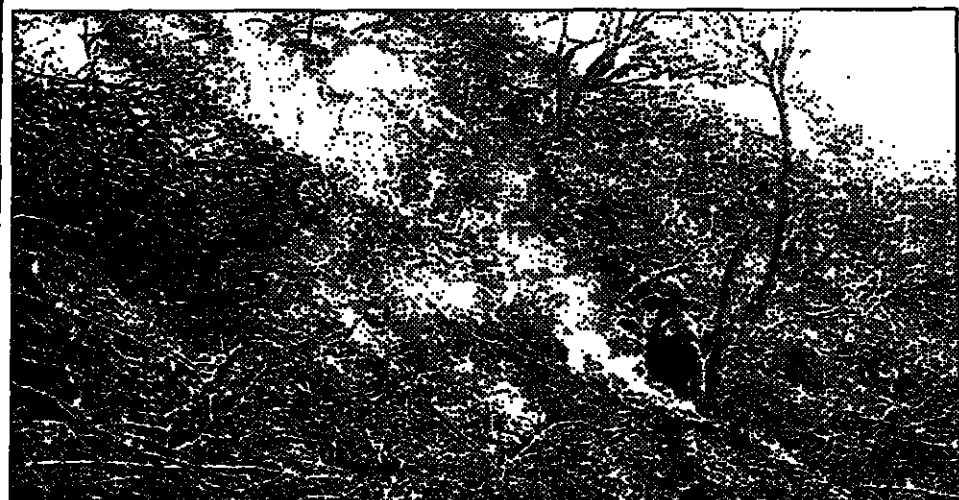
He notes that in the absence of any burning, the vegetation would decay naturally, allowing the soil bacteria to get at the compounds that contain nitrogen.

Recent estimates of the rate of destruction of the rainforests paint a bleak picture. According to some experts, an area equivalent to five times the size of Switzerland is being lost every year.

Many conservation organisations now believe that the best way of stopping the damage, which, if not slowed, will lead to the clearance of all rainforests within 50 years, is to find ways to exploit the inhabitants' resources without threatening their long-term future.

DAVID CONCAR

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Fire down below: a burning rainforest in Ecuador clears land but can cause pollution

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Whilst the post covers all aspects of the role of an Emergency Planning Officer, we are looking for someone to specialise in telecommunications and to continue to develop the organisation of an emergency communications network for the County.

The successful candidate will be expected to take part in an emergency on-call roster which provides continuous cover.

The post attracts an Essential Car User allowance and therefore a full valid driving licence is required. If you feel that you can make a worthwhile contribution in this post, please write to, or telephone, the County Personnel Adviser, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP (Tel: (0234) 228288) for an application form and full job description. Informal enquiries to Mr A Laverick, County Emergency Planning Officer - Tel: (0234) 228285.

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Bedfordshire COUNTY COUNCIL

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Running wild in the menagerie

Victoria Glendinning on a book about ordinary American lives, and the uncontrollable forces that rage through them

Richard Ford gets compared with Hemingway, on account of his directness, and with Raymond Carver, who was his friend, on account of his subject matter. He writes, carefully and with a simplicity that is not deceptive but extremely difficult to achieve, about powerless, uninformed people and their surroundings, in close-up. He has far more to teach Europeans about ordinary American life and the American psyche than have the flashier East Coast novelists.

The first sentence tells the whole story: "In the fall of 1960, when I was sixteen and my father was for a time not working, my mother met a man named Warren Miller and fell in love with him." Around this bleak situation the book grows. The family lives in Great Falls, Montana, and that summer forest fires rage in the hills on three sides of the town. Joe's father loses his job and, fascinated by the drama of the fires, goes off to join the fire-fighters.

His wife didn't want him to go. The raging fires are a sustained metaphor for the uncontrollable forces in their lives. Joe's mother is "out of control" in her consuming passion for Miller. Joe's father, who never keeps a job long, "fought circumstances" as well as the fire. Joe himself, like an anxious spy, listens to what his parents say to him, responding with "I understand" or "I know that", not making judgment, realising that in the conflicts raging above his head nobody is putting him first.

Ford's method is meditative and probing, searching out every nuance with inexhaustible patience. He even records what does not happen: "For a moment I felt the phone was about to start ringing again, felt a current go through the lines of the house, as if the lines were part of me, alive and surging with a message. But it didn't ring, and the feeling in me died out."

He keeps his cast of characters small; in this book, only Joe and his parents are properly in focus. Miller, a limping, lumbering man of no apparent attraction, is physically real to Joe in a way he dislikes, but remains opaque. Miller's house, with its bright, uncurtained windows, is more easily explored than he is. Joe's father, on his return from firefighting, does not attack Miller, he attempts

to set fire to his house. The fire peters out. Grand gestures have no place in these lives. Upheavals take place only in the heart. "Do you know what happens when the very thing you wanted least to happen happens to you?" Joe's father asks, and answers himself: "Nothing at all does."

The family has moved around from place to place, they know almost nobody in Great Falls. Joe, in retrospect, acknowledges that he should have had a girlfriend, or "had an idea of some kind". But he cared only about his parents, "and in the time since then I have realised we were not a family who ever cared about much more than that". They are the "wildlife" of the title, endangered by the conflagration that threatens their family life. In the real fire, a disorientated moose wandered into a town centre, a bear was seen running with its fur blazing. These are the strongest images in this story of crisis and displacement, glimpsed indirectly, offstage as in classical drama.

Joe believes love is for ever, "even though sometimes it seemed to recede and leave no trace at all", and he is proved right in that on the last page his parents drift together again, feeling "that there was something of themselves, something important, that could not live at all in any other way but by their being together, much as they had been before". It is a deeply moral tale. Joe's mother, in the throes of her infatuation, says to her son: "It isn't that you can't say no to somebody else, or somebody's just too good-looking. You can't say no to yourself. It's a lack in you."

The novel is about control. The fires do not reach Great Falls, the marriage is damaged but does not break, love is permanent. This is reassuring, but it is only true within the narrow context of this story. It is true in that for the kind of people Ford is writing about, risks and recklessness can mostly only be dreams of excursions. But you feel he needs it to be that way — too much. There is something obsessive and over-tidy in the jagged neatness of his writing, his interlocking themes and images, his modest conclusions. *Wildlife* is in itself a beautifully made fire-break against the emotional or intellectual anarchy that makes good writing great. His *Wildlife* is tamed, he is observing his private zoo.

WILDLIFE
By Richard Ford
Collins Harvill, £12.50



Richard Ford: able to teach us more about ordinary American life than the flashier East Coast novelists

At home with the heart

PAPERBACK
Frances Hill

A PARTICULAR PLACE
By Mary Hocking
Virago, £4.99

married to an insufferable barrister. The course of their intrigue forms the main plot line. But plot in this novel is largely irrelevant. The real interest lies in

the detailed exploration of character, sharp insights into feelings and motivations and the beautifully conveyed sense of the widespread loss of people's confidence in their roles in life. Hoath's relationship with the ex-nurse creates little excitement or suspense. His wife guesses from the start. He knows she knows. But the affair provides a wealth of insights into relationships and a key scene in which Hoath discovers that true belonging can never be achieved suddenly.

There are other pivotal moments, such as when the book's most self-aware character, Hester Pascoe, finds herself uncharacteristically at one with fellow church members at the end of an arduous pilgrimage to Walsingham. That moment comes when she least expects it, but only after she has given up some of her emotional self-protectiveness to meet the needs of others. The epiphanies are earned, not forced, by the writer. Less convincing are the scenes of

passion, particularly a near-coupling in the churchyard. However, luckily, these are brief.

Hocking knows the human heart very well and is full of wisdom but the comparisons that have been drawn between her and Jane Austen are fanciful. Even comparisons with Barbara Pym seem forced. Hocking has penetration but not wit. And her characters, though faultlessly developed, are interesting because of the psychological insights they allow her to offer, not because they truly live and breathe. However, anyone at home in Austen/Pym territory will find this novel absorbing.

Strife on the ocean waves

Jasper Rees

BOY



By James Hanley
André Deutsch, £11.99
THE WAR OF DON EMMANUEL'S NETHER PARTS
By Louis de Bernières
Secker & Warburg, £13.95
A ROOMFUL OF BIRDS: SCOTTISH SHORT STORIES 1990
Introduction by Deirdre Chapman
Collins, £12.95
THE TERRIBLE GIRLS
By Rebecca Brown
Picador, £11.95

of shooting in a lowland village. They assume it is the work of communist insurgents when it is really the belching of a malfunctioning bulldozer they move in, and so the novel goes on. The villagers team up with the communist insurgents anyway, who in the course of the narrative take under their wing an itinerant Indian mystic, a local aristocrat's fat, haughty wife and the country's only honest general — an entire

social and ethnic mix, that is. Meanwhile, back in the capital, city of fascist purges and miscellaneous terror, the octogenarian president unites the nation by invading a deserted ocean rock owned by the British, and keeps his armed forces at bay by setting them against one another.

It is, in short, far too labyrinthine and many-tentacled a novel to submit to summary, but what should be isolated and applauded is the fact that Mr de Bernières has the surest of narrative touches, an uplifting sense of the exotic and the sort of easy-going wit which makes even the book's most brutal passages bearable. If his story is only precariously held together, it is presumably a reflection of the country that is his subject.

National identity is an even murkier matter in *A Roomful of Birds*, the 1990 model of Collins's annual selection of Scottish short stories. If there is such a thing as Scottishness in a short story, it is not showing its face in such pieces as those by Elizabeth Burns and William Boyd, both of which deal with surviving as a foreigner in France. Only Douglas Dunn, in an affecting story about a middle-aged dunce, includes dialogue written out phonetically. Michael Cannon hints obliquely at a national characteristic with his story of an Israeli tradesman who loses money when business flags in Jerusalem at the time of the Crucifixion.

Rebecca Brown's *The Children's Crusade* appealed to many, but its successor, a dense collection of short stories about sapphic miscommunication and betrayal, seems to miss the mark. The salient feature of *The Terrible Girls* is that its narrator addresses a listener, dramatic monologue style, in the second person. This is a narrative mannerism which can sound racy and locomotive (witness Jay McInerney's *Bright Lights, Big City*), but here plods on in monotonously morose fashion. The technique's worst defect, however, is that although the writer notionally aims her prose more pointedly at the reader by perpetual use of the word "you", it actually works the other way and acts as a barrier to involvement.

A wizard time in Discworld

FANTASY

Philippa Toomey

THE COLOUR OF MAGIC
THE LIGHT
FANTASTIC
EQUAL RITES
WYRD SISTERS
MORT

SOURCERY
STRATA
THE DARK SIDE OF THE SUN

All published by Corgi, £2.99
PYRAMIDS
Corgi, £3.50

All by Terry Pratchett

YOU do not necessarily have to have written a new diet to be on the best seller list — and so *Pyramids*, by Terry Pratchett, which I picked up in an idle moment, turned out not to be an expensive way to sharpen razor-blades. Keats, in "On Looking into Chapman's Homer", put my feelings rather well:

"Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken"

Keats had not read any Homer, and I had not read any Pratchett, but, unlike Ronsard, who decided to read Homer in three days, I had to give rather more than that to the Pratchett oeuvre of nine.

Mr Pratchett invented the Discworld, in *The Colour of Magic*. A great turtle swims through space. On its back are four giant elephants, on whose shoulders the disc of the world rests. We know this only because the extremely inquisitive inhabitants of the small kingdom of Krull lowered some early astrologers over the edge to have a quick look.

Central to the books is the horrible twin city of Ankh-Morpok, where the river Ankh is so polluted that you can heave the water out with a net. The stench, from which all visitors reel in horror, is a source of pride to wizards, trolls, dwarfs, assassins, thieves and other inhabitants. On the miniature jewelled map of the Discworld, the city is marked with a carbuncle and, by arrangement, thieves and muggers will give you a receipt.

Runcwidd, the incompetent wizard, features in several of the books, a man destined to survive because of his instinctive cowardice. He begins his adventures with *Two-Flower*, a tourist from another planet, who blunders innocently into some terrible situations, followed by his luggage, a large brassbound chest made from the rare sapient pearwood, and equipped with hundreds of little legs.

The luggage has a life of its own (it appears in several volumes) and provides clean, ironed clothes scented with lavender to its owner, while crunching up attackers with a frightening mahogany tongue and an undecided number of teeth. It sticks with its owner, can find him anywhere, going through walls if necessary, and in pubs it sits threateningly at your feet, requiring to be fed with crisps.

The luggage is only one of many happy inventions. There is the passing out exam for young assassins — only one in 15 pass, and you never hear of the other 14 again. Teppic, the heir to the throne of Dylebyl, a river kingdom two miles wide and a 150 miles long, prefers to be an assassin, and his efforts to extricate himself from being a god king and having to go on building expensive pyramids forms the central tale of *Pyramids*.

In other books we see quite a lot of the Unseen University, a college for wizards, where the

librarian, having been turned into an orang-utan by mistake, has preferred to remain one. The angst of modern life has been refined to a mild anxiety as to where the next banana is coming from, and prehensile toes and long arms are useful in a library where most of the books are chained, not to protect them from the readers, but vice versa, and the shelves buzz with leaking magic.

Sex raises its magic head in *Equal Rites*, when the eighth son of an eighth son turns out to be a daughter who has all the ability of a first-class wizard, but has to deal with male wizard chauvinism. Wyrd Sisters has an engaging trio of witches who involve themselves in an entirely probable plot of the long-lost son of the murdered king found, not by gypsies, but by strolling players. He becomes the Discworld's Oliver, thanks to a talented dwarf playwright, and gains his kingdom with a play which is almost *Hamlet*, but has parts for three witches.

There are two non-Discworld books, *Strata* and *The Dark Side of the Sun* which did not work quite so well for me, although I liked the notion that to translate a lost language you need only a mad computer, and a poet. Mad computers we have: which poet should take on Linear A or Etruscan?

From the riches of a well-stocked mind come fantastic cities, excellent jokes (like Jan Morris, mainly in the footnotes), and maddening puns. (What do you call people stealing musical instruments? Luters, of course.)

There are travels by bump-stained broomstick, Death himself makes an entrance, and stays drinking cocktails, together with hourglass and scythe, and there is the Broken Drum, the Ankh-Morpok equivalent of Langan's Brasserie.

"Much have I travelled in the realms of gold," Keats said. He didn't know the half of it. But if you try a sonnet, "On first looking into Terry Pratchett", a man called Wilkinson will dig up every alternate line.



Saturday Review

Chapters from the Good Box

Are the "televangelists" of America an evil influence?
Or are they more sinned against than sinning?
Peter Ackroyd decides

Plus

John Russell Taylor on Beardsley and Ricketts;
Richard Holmes on Bloomsbury's gifted failures.

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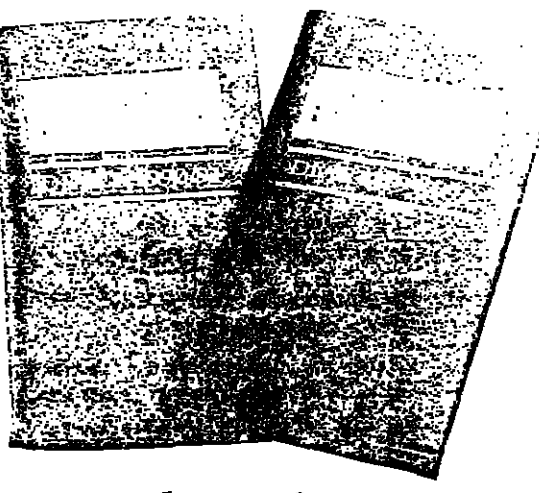
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ARTS

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Urban collapse: no casualties

David Robinson on
Where the Heart Is,
Romuald and
Juliette, *Days of
Thunder*, *The Killer*
and the latest films
from the "New
Directors" scheme
funded by Channel
Four and the British
Film Institute

Twenty years ago in Britain, John Boorman made an odd, enigmatic film, *Leo the Last*, which rather passed the public by. His latest American film, shot in New York, explores a very similar piece of real estate.

Leo was set in a crumbling mansion, beached like a whale in Notting Hill. Its proprietor, an Italian prince (played by Marcello Mastroianni), emerged from his splendid isolation to mix with the dispossessed street people.

The location of *Where the Heart Is* (15, Odeon Mezzanine) is a Dutch-style Brooklyn brownstone mansion, a lone survivor scheduled for re-development as an office high-rise. When conservationists frustrate his plans to raze it, a ruthless demolition tycoon (Dabney Coleman), finds a perverse use for the ruin. Throwing his three spoiled children out of his house, he gives them the brownstone and challenges them to survive there on their own resources.

Thereafter, the script, which Boorman has co-authored with his daughter Telsche, becomes complicated. As the children build a new surrogate family around them, the father's life falls apart and the American stock market crashes. Much as *Leo* did, all these people in *extremis* take to the pavements and join up with their "brothers" who dwell in cardboard boxes under the Brooklyn Bridge.

This is Boorman's comic metaphor for cosmic anxiety — about the failure of traditional family and social equilibria, the betrayed ecology, the precarious caprices of the capitalist business cycle.

He sustains its light tone. The dialogue is crisp and funny ("You can't just spoil us," an aggrieved daughter protests to her parents, "and then just spoil us when it suits you").

The casting, including a lot of unknown and fresh personalities, is as shrewd as in all Boorman's films. Christopher Plummer appears, unrecognisable as a malodorous vagrant, demonstrating what a good actor can do with a part that might mislead others into easy character business.

Decoratively, the film's biggest asset is the "living paintings" of Timna Woolard — landscapes painted in *trompe-l'oeil* on human bodies which are incorporated into canvases. Attributed to one of the daughters, these curious works figure importantly both as metaphor and décor.

Boorman has always had problems in ending his films. Having realised his comic horror vision with some effect, he erases it with a happy-end finale — the status quo restored to everyone's satisfaction — so easy as to appear quite cynical. Perhaps that is his intention.



Decorative asset: Sazy Amis (left) making Uma Thurman into a "living painting" in John Boorman's *Where the Heart Is*

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BRIEFING

Budgetary pointers
PROSPECTIVE Chancellors of the Exchequer will be gathering in Edinburgh this month. An exhibition to mark the bicentenary of Adam Smith's death, tentatively entitled "Morals, Motives and Markets", includes one fascinating sidebar: a computer simulation called "Running the British Economy". It has been devised by the boffins of Heriot-Watt University.

Players find themselves in the same position as the Chancellor, says the exhibition guide. "They attempt to bring down unemployment, stop inflation and balance the budget. As in real life, they have to contend not only with domestic issues, but with 'exogenous shocks'." The exhibition is at the Royal Museum of Scotland until September 2. Reassuring note from the organisers to all politicians: "Assistants are on hand to guide those new to economics."

Colour blind
A RACIST outburst in Stratford has shocked actors of the Royal Shakespeare Company, while indicating that acceptance of mixed-race casting is not yet universal. The incident happened on July 27, minutes into a performance of *King Lear*, and was triggered by the entrance of the black actor, Clarence Smith, who was playing the King of France. At first, an indistinct mutter was heard from the circle. Then, as Smith delivered the line "This is most strange," referring to Lear's capricious treatment of Cordelia, a woman was heard to proclaim "It most certainly is."

The woman then held forth during the interval. "It is an insult to La France to cast a black actor as king," she announced, in a French accent, promising further protests should the actor reappear on stage. (He did not.) The fact that a white English actor would be no more French than a black one did not seem to have occurred to her. Later, Sally Dexter, the actress playing Regan, said she had "never been so shocked in my whole life."



Sally Dexter: RSC shock

Squirrel trouble
ENGLISH Heritage's brushes with local residents over the proposed changes to Marble Hill and Chiswick House have made it more cautious in the presentation of its plans for Inwood — another of the great houses which

EH inherited from the GLC. Tomorrow, an exhibition opens at the great Adam house in Hampstead, revealing the results of EH's intensive survey of the 112 acres. The exhibition offers a stark insight into the problems of running Kenwood — car parking, footpath erosion, dogs' mess, the disruption caused by late-night concert audiences, squirrels eating the trees, and trying to keep faith with Repton's landscaping — but no solutions. "We don't want local people to feel they haven't been consulted," said a spokeswoman.

Ring in
A SMALL event called the Edinburgh Festival Fringe begins this weekend — more than 8,000 thespians are presenting 9,800 performances over the next three weeks. One of those making the trip to the "Athena of the North" is Rob Inglis, who is bringing back his solo dramatisation of *The Lord of the Rings*. As *The Scotsman* said when Inglis first presented the fantastical epic at Edinburgh in 1980: "Rob Inglis has succeeded where the might of movie moguls crumbled."

Since then, the actor has toured his eccentric production internationally and has even recorded it in its entirety — all 53 hours. For the stage performance, Inglis has condensed Tolkien's 1,000-page trilogy into a mere two hours.

Historical steps
THE Royal Ballet has just said goodbye to its longest serving member, Douglas Seaward, who left at the end of the Covent Garden season, made his debut as a dancer in March 1942, aged 14. He comes from Dunfermline, which also produced his near contemporaries Moira Shearer and Kenneth MacMillan. Nineteen de Valois saw him as a schoolboy in Glasgow and brought him to London as one of the boys who had to replace male dancers conscripted during the war.

After dancing with the Royal Ballet for more than 30 years, Seaward remained as a choreographer, helping to notate and help revive ballets. His departure leaves Brian Shaw (once a principal dancer, now a leading teacher) as the Royal Ballet's longest serving salaried member. Leslie Edwards, still an occasional guest in certain roles, has an even longer connection with the company, having first danced with it in 1933, but his official position nowadays is that of ballet master to the Royal Opera.

Hit show arrives
BROADWAY's longest running play, *Other People's Money*, is coming to the West End. In a leading role will be Martin Shaw, still affectionately remembered by millions (despite his subsequent success in the "legit" theatre) as one of those tough-talking, fast-shooting agents in the television series, *The Professionals*. Also starring will be Maria Aitken and Jonathan Newth. The Jerry Sterner comedy-drama about a business battle which becomes a war of the sexes will open at the Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, in October.

CINEMA: MARKETING

The unkind cuts of Hollywood

Expectations hang over Tony Scott's
Days of Thunder. Oscar Moore reports

The British film industry has never been sure whether to applaud or deplore its directors-in-exile: the lucky few who are beckoned by Hollywood seldom return. The staunchly British critics accuse them of having abandoned their roots, wrenched by the all-powerful magnet of money, and as Tony Scott puts it, the chance to play with serious hardware. But nobody can deny that Scott, his brother Ridley, and a handful of top rank ex-pats who graduated from art school and advertising have held their own in the world's greatest dream factory.

As much as Adrian Lyne (*Fatal Attraction*) and probably more than Ridley Scott (*Alien*) or Alan Parker (*Mississippi Burning*), Tony Scott has had the suits behind the desks dancing. *Top Gun* and *Beverly Hills Cop II* currently rank as number 26 and 22 respectively in *Variety's* all-time Top 100 box-office earners, netting Paramount and producers Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer more than \$160 million (\$84 million). *Days of Thunder* (reviewed above), the latest contender from the producer-director team, has been widely styled as "Top Gun on wheels", and brings Tom Cruise back into the lucrative family. The film hopes to do for stock-car racing what *Top Gun* did for jet-fighting. (Navy recruitment received a massive boost from the success of *Top Gun* presumably the shareholders in the Daytona race track are looking for a more cash conscious bonanza.)

But will *Days of Thunder* prove the poor cousin? The American box-office pundits are already writing the film off as it touches and passes the \$70 million (\$37 million) box office gross mark. Normally, \$70 million would mean success, but in Hollywood, where stars, producers and directors now take heavy percentage points, and agents take heavy commissions from the heavy percentage points, \$70 million does not necessarily mean company profit. Certainly not when the film costs in the region of \$48 million: in fact, *Days of Thunder*

will have to clear \$100 million for Paramount to see much cash back. Sitting in a corner of the Savoy breakfast room, Scott seems unconcerned at the scrutiny his film is undergoing. Certainly he is not surprised that the figures are attracting as much talk as the film. "Film is a business. I'd love to think that the end product didn't have to concern me in terms of making it at the box office. But it has to concern me. Especially when you're making a film with that sort of money."

It was the chance to make films that cost that sort of money that led to Scott to Hollywood in the first place. That sort of a fascination with America that saw him spend eight years at art school painting American flags. But his calling card was too European.



Tom Cruise as racer Cole Trickle in *Days of Thunder*

Stark. It is very sad when you spend two years on a movie and it gets taken away." The embrace of old friends on *Days of Thunder* was much warmer. Scott likens his relationship with Simpson and Bruckheimer to a marriage, complete with stormy rows and three healthy movie-children. However, even *Days of Thunder* had something of a forced birth. Determined to bring a fresh look to a sport America watches every day on cable television, Scott knew that *Thunder* had to be made in the editing room. He shot the cars every which way: cameras inside, on top, behind, below, but the sense of real speed could only be caught in the cutting. And then the cutting itself was cut — down to three weeks instead of three months. Scott was back in Hollywood's ambivalent embrace and the claws of the money men were coming out. *Days of Thunder* had to be out there, on the summer release schedule, winning Daytona and the box-office race for Paramount. It was a short-sighted short cut that may have cost the film its box-office laurels.

Scott is discreet about his disappointment. But he knows that the final figures on *Days of Thunder* will decide his position in Hollywood's clout queue for the next "hot" script. "Two decades ago, you could afford to have two or three movies miss, in terms of the money they earned, and you would stay where you were in the star scale. Now, you live and die by your last movie."

CRITICS' CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING (Buena Vista, 15) A quiet night's suburban babysitting ends in outrageous turn of events in Chicago's urban jungle. Endearing comedy-adventure directed by Chris Columbus. Writer of *Gremlins*. Elisabeth Shue heads a young, spirited cast. Originally released on this side of the Atlantic as *A Night on the Town*, 1987.

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT (Odeon, PG) Fritz Lang's last American film — a grey, morose variation on his customary themes of personal guilt and the erratic workings of justice. Dana Andrews stars as the writer whose plans to discredit capital punishment go awry. 1956.

THE BIG BLUE (CBS/Fox, 15) Fabulous tale of rivalries among deep sea divers, filmed by director Luc Besson with far more poignance than sense. With Jean-Marie Berr, Jean Reno and Rosanna Arquette, though the most fetching performances come from dolphins. 1989.

GOOD MORNING, VIETNAM (Buena Vista, 15) Forget the weak plot, concentrate instead on Robin Williams, lighting up the screen as a live-fire armer in 1965 who shakes up Saigon with his outrageous disc jockey patter over the Armed Forces radio. Directed by Barry Levinson. 1987.

KING CREOLE (Braveheart, 15) One of the best early Presley vehicles. The script gives Elvis something to bite on, and veteran director Michael Curtiz vividly captures the New Orleans underworld setting. Walter Matthau shines in the supporting cast. 1958.

OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE (Buena Vista, 15) Shelley Long and Bette Midler as two ladies — one prissy, the other loud — plunged into mayhem by their love for the same man (Peter Coyote). Enriched by a raucous farce, director, Arthur Hiller. 1987.

THE PRESIDIO (CIC, 15) Army provost marshal Sean Connery locks horns with San Francisco cop Mark Harmon over a convoluted murder. Routine material, given a lift by the chases and director Peter Hyams' eye for locations. 1988.

SPARTACUS (CIC, PG) Kirk Douglas, all muscles and dangle, leading a thwarted revolution among the slaves of ancient Rome. Director Stanley Kubrick's grip seems strongest in the excellent early scenes, before epic clichés take over. Run performances: Tony Curtis seems straight from ancient Brooklyn, and Charles Laughton, aged 60, it suits a toga. 1960.

GEOFF BROWN

TELEVISION

Counting the cost of injustice

ANTHONY Sher, around whom, as actor and playwright, the BBC would seem to have built much of its current drama output on both channels, came up with another mesmerizing refugee last night in counterpoint to his current performance at the Barbican in *Singer*. For *Screenplay*, a 2 (BBC 2), he was Samuels, a South African lawyer, long resident in London and called out to Heathrow to take on the case of a black South African refugee, demanding political asylum after a killing there.

Allan Cubitt's first television play had a lot going for it, not least the theory that black and white South Africans, when transposed to London, merely carry on slugging out the racial injustices of home. Tortured by guilt, but well aware there was a better living to be made out of refugee defence in London than in Johannesburg, Sher's character was one that could animate and activate the duldest of screen plays. Not that Cubitt's was ever dull. True, it did depend on the kind of south London boarding-house neo-realism of the dozen 1960s movies that were derived from *The L-Shaped Room*, complete with the wall-like girl from next door, Saviour (Rudi Daves), and the inevitable police raid on the people downstairs.

But between the lines of a familiar and ultimately inconclusive plot about displaced persons feeling still less at home in Brixton than wherever they fled from, Sher, Rudi Daves, and Patrick Shai as the Heathrow refugee all managed to turn in for Diarmuid Lawrence the kind of performances we shall be seeing again at the next round of BAFTAs.

prospectively employers to cruise past in search of cheap labour.

Illegal immigrants apart, it is hard to estimate precisely who these Rough Guides are for, shot from relentlessly tricky camera angles, constantly overlaid with a blasting rock score, and with random information on captions apparently aimed at viewers with an attention span of less than 15 seconds, they are a breathless collection of trivia of the kind usually available from guides who take tours near the homes of film stars in Beverly Hills.

Not that we should have expected too much from producers so obsessed with Jack Nicholson that they spent several minutes filming the front door of a bar where he was once reported to have been seen having a drink. Arts and culture got about 30 seconds, which even for Los Angeles is perhaps not quite enough. We were soon back, looking at the front door of a hotel where a rock star died about 15 years ago. "I did not just lose a guitar player," said his band leader memorably. "I lost a human being."

Another man, apparently incapable of working out which was the front end of a baseball cap, or

alternatively which was the front end of his head, told us the people in California were allowed to go on writing screen plays even when they got to be 50, but that his core creativity was being sapped (presumably by the mental effort of appearing on shows such as this).

We also heard of a new campaign to get more female gays into the police force, and then we were shown a glimpse of the best trauma care centre in Southern California, much appreciated after 40 minutes of the Rough Guide's graphic art. A closing interview with Balthazar Getty was overlaid with a caption tastefully informing those of us who could read that his father had once had an ear lopped off by Italians.

Somewhat, after all of that, the problems on *Them and Us* (BBC 1) of a South Kensington novelist who did not much care for all the holes in his road, several of which had been there since 1981, seemed hopelessly English. What they need around there is evidently a trauma care centre, preferably not run by a lady dressed, as several Californians now appear to be, in mauve cardboard track suits.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION AND RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALL

BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Paul
Burden and Fiona Foster 6.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But First This... Children's
entertainment programme beginning with Belle and
Sebastian (r) 9.25 Why Don't
You...? Entertainment piece for young
people at a loose end (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by The
Jesters 10.30 Playdays. Includes a
visit to Dunwich Heath on the Suffolk
coast (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Gary Watson reads
from the Gospel of Mark
11.00 News and weather followed by
Peaseblossom Kingdom. Drama series
following the fortunes of a woman
who becomes director of Los Angeles
County Zoo
12.00 News and weather followed by The
Garden Party. A look at the dangers of
passive smoking, at the workplace
and in public areas, and how to cope
with AIDS in the family. Mavis
Nicholson asks Anna Raeburn about her
first kiss 12.55 Regional news and
weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip
Hayton. Weather
1.30 News and weather. Ceefax 1.50 Holiday
Outings. Anne Gregg takes a two-week
fly-drive holiday to California (r)
2.00 Cricket: Second Test. Live
coverage of the afternoon session in the
game at Old Trafford between England
and India. Ceefax 2.10 The All New
Cartoons 4.10 The All New
Show 4.35 Bad Boys. Episode three
of the 10-part serial about a
mischievous young man (r)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 We Are the
Champions. Top sports-commentator
Ron Pickering introduces a special
edition featuring teams of disabled
children competing in a series of fun

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children competing in a series of fun



Mark, Roma and their surrogate baby (9.30pm)

unbearably involving account of an
act of selflessness such as only one
woman in a million would be
prepared even to think about. (Ceefax)
10.30 The Play On One: Killing Time.
Early on, Kevin Elyot's shiver-
down-the-spine drama has a fanged
Nostalgia (on television), and the
perfect picture of misery) containing the
last that the shades of love in the
most abject of pain. Also on the screen
is Mrs Thatcher, sermonising about the
spiritual dimension of money (it's
what we make of it that matters,
etc.). The words of vampire and P.M.
coalesce in Elyot's tale of a lonely
homosexual DISS clerk (Pip Donaghy)
perpetually disappointed in love,
who offers bed-stuff luxury (a bed, fried
eggs, and opera on LP) to a young
thug (Adrian Gillen) half his age and a
hundredth his sensitivity. The
opening dimly shot of the clerk's hand
reaching out for someone else's
hand, strangely unresponsive, offers
only the smallest clue to the nature
of the play's macabre climax. (Ceefax)
11.45 Weather

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
9.25 He-Man and the Masters of the
Universe 9.50 Thames News and
weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget (r)
10.25 Vicky the Viking 10.50 News
headlines
10.55 Children of the Dog Star. The final
episode of the children's science fiction
serial (r) (Oracle) 11.25 Just for the
Record. Brett Clements and Louise
Wallace go in search of the strange
and unusual in the world of record-
breaking 11.50 Thames News and
weather 12.05 The Adventurers of
Tintin (r) 12.05 The Riddlers (r)
12.25 Home and Away. Drama from Down
Under 12.55 Thames News and
weather
1.00 News at One with Sue Carpenter.
Weather
1.20 Daytime Green: The Earth
Dwellers' Guide. Linda McCartney
sends a message to the world as
she explains why she and husband Paul
have promoted environmental issues
on their world tour (r) 1.50 A Country
Practice
2.20 Dear Miriam. Dr Miriam Stoppard
brings her problem page to the screen,
and offers suggestions and advice
on a wide range of problems that cause
concern
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Rippon
hosts another edition of the odd
occupations game show 3.15 News
headlines 3.20 Thames News and
weather 3.25 The Young Doctors

- 3.55 The Raggy Dolls 4.10 Disney's
Duck Tales (r) 4.35 Cartoon Time
starring Speedy and Daffy (r)
4.40 Tide Race. Jane Rossington from
Crossroads stars in Tide Race, a new
series which has been broadcast to
Europe as part of a contribution to the
European Broadcasting Union's
children's drama exchange. Fourteen-
year-old Jonathan Scannell co-stars.
He is a Down's Syndrome teenager who
wants to be a runner and dreams of
winning a Gold medal in the Olympics.
His sister and her boyfriend take
daily runs to the beach and, against the
boyfriend's wishes, John is
determined to follow. The results are
dramatic
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge
quiz game for teenagers
5.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprackley with
details of Neil Neil, a theatre company
based in north London which
performs in schools
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emeraldale. Drama with the
Yorkshire farming community of
Beckindale. (Oracle)
7.30 Nature Watch: Little Lions of the
Rainforest. Julian Pettifer examines
efforts to save from extinction one of
the world's smallest monkeys, the lion
tamarin, a native of the Brazilian
rainforests
8.00 The Bill: Robbo. One of television's
best-loved drama series featuring the
team from Sun Hill police station.
(Oracle)

- 8.30 This Week Special: Crisis in the
Gulf. An analysis of the events in the
Gulf. It's recession now inevitable?
9.00 L.A. Law. Glossy but effective
drama series about a firm of American
lawyers (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet
and Sandy Cell. Weather 10.30
Thames News and weather
10.35 Thames Summer Season: Still Life
at the Penguin Cafe. A cabaret fantasy
featuring the music of Simon Jeffes'
Penguin Cafe Orchestra and Hayden
Griffin's colourful designs (r)
11.20 Prisoner: Cell Block H
12.15am It's My Belief. Tonight's
programme features members of the
Ahmadiyya community centred in
Southfields. Presented by Nick Stuart
12.45 Film: The Big Gamble (1951)
starring Stephen Boyd, Juliette Greco
and David Wayne. Unconvincing
adventure story of an Irishman, his
young bride, and their meek bank
clerk cousin who venture into the
unknown in order to seek their
fortune on the Ivory Coast. Directed by
Richard Fleischer. Followed by
News headlines
3.00 The Invisible Man (b/w). The
escapes of a scientist whose
experiments go wrong and leave him
invisible
3.30 Funny Farm. Stu Who? introduces
another selection of Scottish comedians
4.00 The New Sessions featuring Dr
Phibes
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 ITN Morning News with Christabel
King. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Noah's Ark. The wildlife of the
Tasapapa region of Chile (r)
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Impressive
scenes of natural beauty set to music
11.00 As It Happens. Paddy Haycock
and his camera crew at Cowes Week
12.00 Scotland's War. The story of
Scotland's evacuees and how their lives
were permanently changed by their
experiences
12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning
series. Today - how babies manage to
eat and breathe through the umbilical
cord (r)
2.00 Deep in My Heart (1954)
starring Jose Ferrer, Merle Oberon and
Helen Traubel. A disappointing
Hollywood biopic of the life of the
composer Sigmund Romberg.
Directed by Stanley Donen
4.30 Countdown
5.00 Film: Dick Barton at Bay (1950, b/w)
starring Don Stanway, Michael Mear
and Tamara Dean. Special agent
Dick Barton is called in to find a
kidnapped scientist, who has
invented a ray that can detonate
explosives within a 20-mile radius.
Can the ex-commando save the world
from the hands of the fanatical
foreign spy? Answers on a postcard,
please Directed by Godfrey Grayson
6.15 Animation. A selection of short
animated features
6.30 Kate & Allie. Comedy series about
two divorced women who have kept
their friendship since college and
now share single parenthood (r)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas
Owen and Sonia Rusek
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Gardener's Calendar. John Huxley
narrates this seasonal gardening
programme, reporting on what

- needs to be done to the television
garden at the Royal Horticultural
Centre. (Oracle)
8.30 My Two Dads. American comedy
series about a 12-year-old girl who is
given into the care of two very
different men, either of whom could be
her father
9.00 Something Evil
Directed by Steven Spielberg in
1972, that's what this movie's credits
say. Then why haven't we heard of it
before? Because it was made for
American television, that's why. Yet,
you'll argue, so was Duel, which
Spielberg made in 1971, and that
was shown in cinemas. So why not
Something Evil? Why not indeed,
especially as, by all accounts, this is the
younger Spielberg proving beyond
question that Duet was no flash in the
pan, that he could generate just as
much menace in the old Pennsylvania
farmhouse in which Sandy Dennis
and Darren McGavin set up home in
Something Evil, as he did when a car
and a lorry fought to the death in Duet,
and that when Jews came along (in
1975), Spielberg had mastered every
shock effect in the book
10.25 Billy the Fish. The first two episodes
of the animated version of the famous
Viz cartoon character (r)
10.30 Drop the Dead Donkey: A New
Dawn.
Frustrating though it may be for
the previewer who wants to be specific,
there is no remedy in this new
comedy series set in the newsroom of a
commercial television station
because typically is the name of the
game. Tonight's inaugural episode
was recorded yesterday. And so it will
be every Thursday night for the next
10 weeks. A compilation tape that
strings together random moments from
the series indicates in which
direction Guy Jenkin's and Andy
Hamilton's writing will go. It will be
nostalgic (the 'appetiser' tape



Something evil stalks Sandy Dennis (9.00pm)

has a stinging indictment of present
and future (and of the 10), healthy
sceptical (There's a farmer on the
phone, asking how big do you want the
com circles?) and, if a snippet from
episode nine is anything to go by, not
always in the best of taste (a death
squad execution is re-staged for the
benefit of the television reporter)
11.00 Tattooed Tears. The first in a series
of five documentaries by Nick
Broomfield is this harsh and
disturbing look at an American Youth
Training School, holding some 2,000
juveniles, committed for violent crimes
12.35am Film: A Question of Silence
(1982) starring Cox Hedges, Nelly
Frida and Hanneke Tol. A drama
from The Netherlands about three
women who are arrested for
murdering a shop manager and thought
to be insane. A psychiatrist
examines them for signs of insanity and
cannot find evidence to support the
claim, causing her to question her own
state of mind. Excellent film,
challenging society's ideas of normality
and appropriate behaviour. With
English subtitles. Directed by Mariene
Goris. Ends at 2.20 am

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Inner-City Story -
The Dockers. Ends at 7.10
9.00 Mastermind 1990 World. David
Masterson 1990 World. David
9.35 Arthur Negus Enjoys. An intriguing
glimpse of Victorian England is seen
when Arthur Negus looks at a
collection of attractive 19th-century pot
tiles belonging to actor Leslie
Crowther (r)
9.50 Cathedral Conflict. Has church
fund-raising become business? A
look at the special inquiry set up by
the Bishop of Lincoln into a dispute over
the cathedral's financial
management (r)
10.20 The Cowboy Coppers. A report on
the private security business in
Scotland, where the police claim that
some small firms are employing
criminals and legitimate firms
complain that the industry's standing is
being undermined. The reporter is
Ian Kellagher (r)
10.50 Cricket: Second Test. Tony Lewis
introduces live coverage of the first
day's play between England and
India at Old Trafford, Manchester.
1.05 Past and Present Preserved: Delta
Expo. A look at The Netherlands' 1993
flood control project, the Delta Plan,
in the context of the country's 2,000 year
history of hydraulic engineering 1.20
Mr Benn (r)
1.35 Cricket: Second Test. Further live
coverage of the afternoon's play from
Old Trafford

- 2.00 News and weather followed by The
National Election. The Chairing of
the Bard ceremony at the Royal
National Eisteddfod, where druids and
archdruids honour the winner of
Wales's most coveted poetry prize,
introduced by Sara Edwards
3.30 Look, Stranger. Exploring the work
of Malcolm Appleby, who 'scratches'
on metal at a derelict railway station
(r) 3.50 News, regional news and
weather
4.00 Cricket: Second Test continued
from BBC1
6.25 Simple Minds. Jim Kerr and the
band's members talk about their musical
and political roots (r). Wales: 6.25
8.00 Film: Blackboard Jungle
7.05 Frogmore House: A Royal Retreat.
John Julius Norwich tells the story of
Frogmore House, which for 200
years has been a private retreat for
female members of the Royal Family.
Having undergone restoration, it is now
open to the public
7.25 Business Matters: Give and Take.
Second of three dramatisations showing
how to use meetings as part of a
successful management strategy.
(Ceefax)
8.00 The 'Sleep' Maxwell Story. Dabney
Coleman and Shirley Jones star in the
superior US comedy series about the
life and loves of a veteran sports
writer
8.25 On the Line. As the international
squash season gets into the swing, Sue
Mott and Ray Stubbs look at the
Khan family's outstanding success of
the squash courts

- 9.00 The Travel Show with Penny Junor,
John Thielwell and Matthew Collins.
Tonight's programme includes a
report on Santander on the Spanish
coast, and a UK mini-guide to Bath
9.30 The Tracey Ullman Show. Tracey
Ullman's award-winning US show with
comedy routines in her own special
style
9.50 Strangers. Another chance to see
the award-winning series on the
conditions in the maximum security
prison, first shown ten years ago, and
now seen in a new light after April's
riots (r)
10.30 Newsnight
11.15 Cricket: Second Test. Highlights of
the first day's play in the game at Old
Trafford between England and India
11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Weekend Outlook
12.05am Health and Disease -
Customer Service. Ends at 12.35



Dabney Coleman: a sporting life (8.00pm)

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW
6.00am John Peel 6.30am Simon
Mayo 6.50am Simon Mayo 7.00am The Radio 1
Breakfast 7.20am John Peel 7.30am
John Peel 7.40am John Peel 7.50am
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
● DEGREE RESULTS 26
● SPORT 30-34

BUSINESS

THURSDAY AUGUST 9 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Two more property groups in difficulty

TWO more property development companies yesterday confirmed they were in serious difficulties, fuelling speculation that the City's banks were taking a hard line on their property loan books (Matthew Bond writes).

Shortly before the official close, shares in the fully quoted Rockfort Group were suspended at 9p. The company said a temporary suspension had been sought, pending clarification of the company's financial position.

When Rockfort came to the market in June, 1988, the shares were offered for sale at 140p a share, valuing the company at more than £60 million. At last night's suspension price, the company, run by the former Reading and Chelsea footballer Roger Smees, was valued at less than £4 million.

The timing of the announcement is thought to have been influenced by one made earlier by Broadwell Land, a USM group.

In June, Broadwell announced that it was in talks with an institution that could have resulted in the institution subscribing for what was expected to be about £20 million of new equity.

Broadwell said yesterday that these negotiations had been broken off. The shares, which a year ago stood at over 245p, fell 8p to 13p. At that level, the company is worth £2.3 million. Last night, Broadwell was still hoping to reach agreement with bankers.

Comment, page 25

SB debt reduced
SmithKline Beecham made further debt reductions in the three months ended June to end its half year with net debt of £822 million compared with £1.75 billion at the end of December. Pre-tax profits for the six months were £416 million on sales of £2.29 billion. A second quarterly dividend of 3.4p is declared.

Tempus, page 25

Ultramar drop
Ultramar, the oil and gas group, reported net income down from £62.5 million to £36.1 million and earnings down from 17.1p to 9.8p for the first half. The interim dividend is up 17 per cent to 3.5p.

Tempus, page 25

THE POUND
US dollar 1.8675 (-0.0125)
W German mark 2.9763 (+0.0125)
Exchange index 94.8 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1748.5 (+0.1)
FT-SE 100 2237.5 (+1.7)
New York Dow Jones 2735.15 (+24.51)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 28509.14 (+856.07)
Closing Prices ... Page 27

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 14.1/14.5%
3-month eligible bills 14.2/14.5%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.37-7.38%
30-year bonds 82.88 1/2

CURRENCIES
London: New York: £ \$1.8675
E DM 2.9363
E Sfr 2.0085
E FF 1.6650
E Yen 260.31
E Index 94.8
ECU 1.636975
E CDM 1.40974

GOLD
London Fixing: AM \$384.75 pm \$384.75
close \$382.00-382.50 (E204.50-205.00)
New York: Come \$382.70-383.20

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Sep) ... \$25.05 bbl (\$27.40)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES
ALIENS wishing to communicate with the human race will in future find themselves paying a royalty fee to Thorn EMI.

Lloyd's raises war premium on Gulf sailings

By OUR CITY STAFF

LLOYD'S of London insurance market, the biggest in the world, announced a tenfold rise in war-risk premiums for vessels sailing into the Gulf.

From yesterday, a new seven-day hull rate of 0.25 per cent applies for calls to the Gulf north of latitude 24 degrees north but excluding the Gulf of Oman between 24 and 26 degrees north. There is also a 0.25 per cent premium for the Israeli port of Eilat. Last week, Lloyd's announced a 0.025 per cent premium for the Gulf as an immediate response to the Kuwaiti invasion.

For the Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia and for Iran north of 29 degrees 45 minutes north, a 1 per cent premium will be charged. These are the first war premiums to be applied since the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

In addition, the Lloyd's joint war committee has given seven days' notice from midnight on Friday that a 0.25 per

cent hull premium will be applied to the Saudi Arabian Red Sea coast and the Gulf of Aqaba. This premium may be increased before then, however. Cover for Iraq and Kuwait has been held at 0.5 per cent. Christopher Rome, an underwriter at C W Rome said: "These new rates reflect underwriters' very real concern over the current situation. They want to continue to offer cover to shipowners and operators engaged on legitimate trade, but they can only do so at what they consider prudent and realistic rates."

Meanwhile, the international oil tanker market is grinding to a halt because owners will not let their ships venture into the troubled Gulf. Tanker owners face costly charges to keep their vessels idle or running at a loss.

"Unless other Opec nations lend a hand and start pumping out more oil, tanker rates will keep falling," an analyst said. The tanker market has been in the doldrums since Iraq invaded Kuwait at dawn last Thursday. The two Gulf states were

pumping about 4.9 million barrels per day of oil just before the invasion.

Oil prices eased in London and New York on expectations that Opec countries would boost production to compensate for the loss of crude from Iraq and Kuwait.

September Brent slipped to \$25.80 a barrel, against Tuesday's close of \$27.40, as dealers took advantage of the uneasy calm to take profits. Prices have soared to their highest since late 1985 because of the Gulf confrontation. They were around \$15 a barrel in June.

"Prices have been zigging and zagging to television," said Peter Gienow, manager of the energy desk at Shearson Lehman Brothers, the American-owned securities house. "The outcome is that the market has had a few supply fears removed."

Steve Turner, an analyst of Smith New Court, said: "If things turn nasty in the Gulf you could still see \$40 before you see \$20 again."

Members of the 21-nation International

Energy Agency meet in Paris today to assess the impact of the Gulf tension on oil stocks. The IEA, created after the 1973 oil crisis, can ask members to curb demand or draw stocks. It can impose compulsory oil sharing if supply falls 7 per cent below normal levels, although this system has never been tried.

Share prices in London spent another nervous session fluctuating wildly as investors tried to glean every scrap of information and speculation to emerge from the Middle East. The FT-SE 100 index experienced a 36-point turnaround after earlier gains were wiped out to end the session a mere 1.7 up at 2,237.5. Dealers reported a few cheap buyers first thing in this trading that saw only 429 million shares traded.

In New York, Wall Street rebounded in response to Washington's decision to move troops into Saudi Arabia and on bargain-hunting after the 10.7 per cent fall in the market since its mid-July peak.

The financial markets were generally firm after President George Bush formally announced the troop deployment.

In a luncheon press conference, Mr Nicholas Brady, the Treasury secretary, said that the United States needed strong economic growth.

Asked whether he had been silent on the need for the Fed to reduce interest rates to keep the economy moving, Mr Brady made clear that he favoured lower rates and said he had "not been silent".

● IBCA, the bank rating agency, is compiling a report on the Iraq and Kuwait exposure of rated banks and countries to assess the credit consequences of the freeze on assets of these two countries.

The agency has already put three of the banks it rates, United Bank of Kuwait, UK (rated A2), National Bank of Kuwait, France (A2), and Kuwaiti-French Bank, France (B2), on rating watch, pending a possible rating downgrade.

Stock markets, page 26

Berisford asset sale ready to go ahead

By ANGELA MACKAY

BERISFORD International, the troubled property and sugar group, is set to announce a series of asset sales over the next few weeks that will cut net debt from more than £1.25 billion to about £850 million by September 30, the end of the company's financial year.

The company's advisers have also prepared the first draft of a memorandum of sale for its most valuable asset, British Sugar, which should result in an auction starting by the beginning of next month.

Only an offer of at least £1.2 billion for British Sugar could stop the auction, sources close to the company said. Last week, J Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, was retained in addition to Berisford's usual adviser, Charterhouse, to conduct the sale.

Berisford is trying to avoid a fire-sale of British and American properties in a depressed market by selling its sugar business first. Associated British Foods, Berisford's biggest shareholder, has asked the Office of Fair Trade to consider whether it would allow an offer. British Sugar has about £200 million of debt and annual sales of more than £1 billion. The strategy de-

vised by the company's new board, led by John Slater and Peter Jacobs, will leave the rump of Berisford containing the property divisions and Bristar's food and drinks business. Analysts have suggested this would have a value of about 120p a share once group debt was removed entirely by British Sugar's sale.

Berisford, which put all its assets up for sale last month after it attributed a £144.5 million loss to shareholders, is also close to finalising contractual payouts for its former chairman, Ephraim Margulies, and two former directors, Howard Zuckerman, who was behind the firm's disastrous investment in Manhattan property, and Harry Wiltshire, once chief of the group's metals business.

Over the next month, Berisford will announce it has reduced its stake in its main commodities business, Rayner Coffee International, from more than 65 per cent to about 35 per cent. This will remove the item from the balance sheet along with about \$100 million of debt, but will provide a cash injection of only about £5 million.

The leasing division is expected to be sold early next month, taking £90 million of debt with it, while the dried

fruit and nuts business will also be sold. Sale of one of the 13 New York properties was completed recently for \$38.6 million, while the Blue Hills Plaza office development in Rockland County, New York, is under contract to Japanese buyers for about \$150 million.

In the past year, Berisford has provided £200 million against losses on New York property. The company has given warning that it may have to write off another \$53.5 million. Since news of the losses was made public, Berisford's shares have fallen from 151p to a low this week of 34p. The shares closed yesterday unchanged at 45p.

Berisford's 68 bankers, led by National Westminster, are involved in refinancing the company's debt and, once the investment in the coffee division is wound down, one layer of banks will be removed. The company has cash in the bank of about £35 million, plus undrawn-down facilities of £100 million.

With the share price near its all-time low, it is believed two companies have tentatively approached Berisford about making an offer for the entire group that would be more tax effective for shareholders than an outright sale of British Sugar.



Contract winner: Charles Masefield, managing director of BAe's commercial aircraft division

BAe lands \$200 US order

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Aerospace has secured its biggest ever order for the Jetstream 19-seater turbo-prop aircraft in a deal worth \$200 million from American Eagle, the regional airline partner of American Airlines.

AMR Eagle has ordered 35 Jetstream Super 31s with options on a further 15 aircraft. The airline is already operating 25 Jetstreams, which are used as feeder aircraft, taking passengers to main airport hubs including the international gateways.

Jetstreams, which began airline service in 1982, are manufactured at BAe's Prestwick factory in Strathclyde. The company says the new order will secure the 2,200 jobs supported by Jetstream work.

Charles Masefield, managing director of the airlines division of BAe's commer-

cial aircraft operation, said: "This order is a clear endorsement of the skills of the Prestwick facility and the reliability, durability, technical superiority and passenger acceptance of the Jetstream within AMR Eagle's ever-expanding route network."

Total orders for the Jetstream 31 and Super 31 now stand at 345. There are also ten firm orders from PanAm Express, PanAm's partner airline, for the Jetstream 41, a stretched version with seating for 29 which is due to have its first flight next spring.

Among options taken on the Jetstream 41 is 50 from AMR Eagle. If it exercises all its options, Eagle's fleet of Jetstreams will grow to 125.

Robert Martens, AMR Eagle's president, said: "The new order builds on the established Jetstream fleet and

increases flexibility. With its high level of passenger acceptability, the Jetstream Super 31 has given us a competitive edge."

North America, with its highly developed hubs-and-spokes pattern of airline services, has so far proved the best market for the Jetstream, accounting for about 260 of the total orders.

United Airlines, TWA, North West, and Air Canada are other airlines whose feeder partners have bought Jetstreams. Other sales have been made in Europe and Australia.

There have also been some orders from regional airlines operating on less popular routes.

It could point the way to Jetstream being used increasingly as a commuter aircraft as well as a feeder to services flying out of main airport hubs.

East Germany pulls out of currency talks

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

GERHARD Pohl, the East German economics minister, has walked out of a meeting in Prague with Slavomir Stracar, the Czechoslovak foreign trade minister, after they were unable to reach agreement over a dispute about exchange rates.

The dispute has led a large number of East German companies to announce a fall in profits from £90 million to £16 million in the six months to end June.

The Czechoslovak government may now consider trade sanctions and a possible trade blockade against East Germany.

Czechoslovakia, East Germany's second largest trading partner after the Soviet Union, has now taken the unprecedented step of changing the crown/mark exchange rate unilaterally in an attempt to compensate for the shortfall in trade.

General Accident and CU profits fall

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

DESPITE suffering from storms and rising claims on anything from subsidence to commercial fire risk, insurance companies have been unable to push premium rates on anything but cars up as they would like. Tony Brend, chief executive of Commercial Union, admitted this after announcing a fall in profits from £90 million to £16 million in the six months to end June.

CU's results were judged relatively good in the City, by comparison with General Accident, which reported a first-half loss of £66.2 million, against a profit of £122 million a year ago. GA's second-quarter profits fell from £67 million to £14 million.

The first-half drop was mainly due to the January storm, which cost CU more than £130 million in gross

claims, though the net cost after reinsurance was £40 million. In the more normal second quarter, CU earned pre-tax profits of £42 million, against £44 million last year, but GA made £14 million, down from £67 million.

CU raised its interim dividend 10 per cent to 9p per share, but GA later capped this with a 10.9 per cent rise to 9.7p per share.

Nelson Robertson, GA's chief general manager, said GA was making a fundamental review of its long-standing operations in continental Europe after a further rise in first-half losses from £13 million to £28 million. Losses on its estate agencies rose from £8.3 million to £10.3 million.

Tempus, page 25

Crashed firms take toll of Standard

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, is the latest bank to be hit by British corporate failures. Pre-exceptional profits fell 37 per cent to £110 million in the six months to June because of an £89 million bad debt provision, up 133 per cent.

The bank, however, returned to a pre-tax profit of £110 million after £222 million in Third World debt write-offs pushed it into losses of £48 million a year ago. It holds its dividend at 12.5p. The bank made a £29 million provision against lending to British & Commonwealth, and a £25 million write-off on its £400 million management buyout loans. Profits before bad debt provisions fell 8 per cent to £192 million, due to £19.5 million of unpaid interest on Third World debt.

Comment, page 21

Analysts sound note of caution over Filmtrex deal

Sweet music to Thorn EMI's ears

By MARTIN WALLER

ALIENS wishing to communicate with the human race will in future find themselves paying a royalty fee to Thorn EMI.

Under a deal worth up to \$115 million, the British music and electrical goods group is buying Filmtrex, one of the world's three biggest music publishers. The acquisition will bring the number of titles under Thorn ownership to more than 600,000.

Thorn is buying the rights to a ragbag of 90,000 songs, including pop, jazz, and Broadway numbers, and soundtracks from a number of Columbia Pictures, including perhaps the five most famous notes in Hollywood history, the "contact theme" from the Steven Spielberg film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Exactly what else is in that ragbag was in doubt last night as Thorn started a detailed examination of the Filmtrex

catalogue. However, the rights do include *Fantasia*, *Fantasia*, the Whitney Houston hit *Greatest Love of All*, and a share of the Elvis Presley classic *Heartbreak Hotel*.

Thorn has been building up its music publishing business over the past couple of years. It paid \$337 million last year for more than 250,000 titles from SBK Entertainment World of New York.

Filmtrex has grown by acquisition since it was founded in 1964. A purchase from Granada Group brought with it the theme from *Coronation Street*.

The two main beneficiaries of the deal are Ensign Trust, the investment vehicle of the Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund, which has a majority holding, and John Hall, the founder.

A former record promotions executive who rose to be managing director of Elton John's Rocket Records label in the late 1970s, Mr Hall, aged 43, has 18 per cent of Filmtrex. Negotiations with CBS,

which had been considering a price tag of some \$131 million, foundered before Thorn entered the scene.

The deal did not come as sweet music to the City's ears, and Thorn shares dropped 13p to 681p. There has been some disquiet over Thorn's recent decision to switch from its more traditional businesses, such as lighting and defence electronics, which have solid asset backing, to the more ephemeral music business. In addition, the group already has some £400 million of debt.

Shares to a maximum value of £15.7 million will be issued as part of the consideration, but the rest of the deal will have to be funded in cash.

Thorn is paying a multiple of almost 12 times the last financial year's earnings for Filmtrex, the highest yet paid for such a music business. Analysts said the high price reflected the increasing rarity of such intellectual copyright.

SIMON

Equipment - Contracting - Industrial Services

- Operating profit up 11.5%
- Profit before tax up 15%
- Earnings per share up 12%
- Interim dividend up 16%

Chairman Roy Roberts says:

"The achievements of 1989 have continued into the first half of 1990, further underlining the soundness of the strategic changes that management has made to turn the Group into a major international organisation."

Whilst it is impossible to predict the world effect of the current Middle East situation, I anticipate that our progress will be maintained throughout the rest of the year."

	Six Months Ended 30 June 1990 £000	Six Months Ended 30 June 1989 £000	Year Ended 31 Dec 1989 £000
--	------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------

Turnover	277,677	321,912	667,335
Operating Profit	17,703	15,873	42,330
Profit before Tax	16,472	14,331	38,620
Earnings per Share	14.3p	12.8p	36.8p
Ordinary Dividend	5.0p	4.3p	14.9p

* Adjusted for the effects of the one for four Rights Issue at £2.85 per share in April 1989.

The abridged profit and loss account for the year 1989 is an extract from the latest published accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the audit report for these accounts was unqualified.

Copies of the full Interim Report may be obtained from The Publicity Department

Simon Engineering plc
Simon House, Birchall Lane, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0RT

Ratners extends deadline on Kay offer by 24 hours

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RATNERS Group, the British jewellery chain bidding £234 million for Kay Jewellers in America, has extended its tender offer to Kay bondholders by 24 hours. It is the second such extension since the original deadline of midnight New York time on Monday.

Gary O'Brien, Ratners's finance director, is reasonably confident that an agreement can be reached by the new deadline, although it cannot be guaranteed. He says there are signs that the bondholders may be willing to compromise. Ratners is offering 75 cents in the dollar for the

bonds. The bondholders have been asking for the full face value. Unofficially Ratners is believed to have indicated that it may be willing to offer 85 cents in the dollar. There is speculation in New York that the two sides may reach a compromise of 90 cents.

Technically the offer to the bondholders can be left open indefinitely, but the offer of \$17 for each Kay share to the equity holders is dependent on 51 per cent of the bondholders accepting the offer to them.

Analysts in New York said yesterday that the holders of the \$100 million 12% per cent

bonds looked most likely to accept the offer, with holders of the \$50 million 12% per cent bonds more likely to hold out for longer.

Ratners said that so far \$324,000 of the 12% notes and none of the 12% notes had been deposited pursuant to the tender offer.

If a settlement is not reached by the new deadline, Ratners will have to re-consider its strategy. It has the option of either walking away from the bid or increasing its offer to bondholders.

Ratners shares fell 6p to 235p.



General Accident

INTERIM RESULTS

The results of the General Accident Group for the six months ended 30th June 1990, estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1989, which are restated at 31st December 1989 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1989.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	6 Months to 30.6.90 £ millions	6 Months to 30.6.89 £ millions	Year 1989 Actual £ millions
Premium Income			
General Business	1,596.3	1,547.6	3,100.2
Long Term Business	199.9	198.3	381.3
	1,796.2	1,745.9	3,481.5
Investment Income	208.7	218.8	462.7
Net Bank Result	(6.9)	(29.3)	(47.6)
Estate Agency Result	(10.3)	(8.3)	(20.5)
Underwriting			
General Business Result	(227.8)	(48.9)	(203.8)
Long Term Business Profits	12.0	11.4	26.9
	(215.8)	37.5	(176.9)
Less Interest on Loans	(23.3)	143.7	217.7
U.K. Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	42.9	21.7	64.5
	(80.4)	165.4	143.2
Profit (Loss) before Taxation	(66.2)	122.0	147.0
Taxation - U.K. and Overseas	(10.2)	37.6	32.1
	(76.4)	159.6	179.1
Profit (Loss) after Taxation	(56.0)	84.4	114.9
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	(2.0)	(10.3)	(13.7)
	(58.0)	74.1	101.2
Long Term Business Profits - GA Life 1988 Valuation	-	-	9.5
Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders	(54.0)	94.7	138.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	(12.6p)	22.5p	32.6p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.74	\$1.61	\$1.61
Canada	\$2.03	\$1.87	\$1.87

Notes

- Under a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Court of Session under Section 425 of The Companies Act 1985 and effective on 5th July, 1990 the shareholders of General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc received for each share then held, two new shares of 25p each fully paid in General Accident plc.
- Investment Income excludes £5.8m (1989 £6.3m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.
- The NZI Bank result includes gains and losses both realised and unrealised on investments held for trading purposes.
- The transfer of shareholders' profit from the long term business fund is stated gross of taxation and on a current year basis.

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	6 months to 30.6.90 £m	6 months to 30.6.89 £m	6 months to 30.6.89 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	565.9	(94.5)	517.3
U.S.A.	462.4	(48.6)	461.1
EU/EC other than U.K.	91.8	(27.4)	92.8
Canada	192.8	(0.9)	196.1
Pacific Basin	168.9	(26.4)	175.4
Other Overseas	55.4	(10.6)	48.0
Long Term Business incl. Internal Reins.	59.1	(19.2)	66.4
	1,596.3	(227.8)	1,547.6

Net written premiums increased in sterling terms by 3.1% while investment income fell by 4.2%. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increase in premiums was 8.2% and the reduction in investment income, largely reflecting the impact on cash flow of higher claims costs, was 2.2%.

In the second quarter there was a worldwide underwriting loss of £67.6m (1989 £28.2m loss) with losses in the United Kingdom of £14.3m (1989 £9.9m profit) and in the United States of £20.6m (1989 £15.5m loss). Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £32.7m (1989 £21.6m loss). The pre-tax profit for the quarter amounted to £14.1m (1989 £67.1m profit).

For the six months, net written premiums in the United Kingdom were £565.9m (1989 £517.3m) and there was an underwriting loss of £94.5m (1989 £19.1m profit). The Homeowners' and Commercial Property accounts produced losses of £20.2m (1989 £9.5m profit) and £26.4m (1989 £6.6m profit) respectively. Both accounts were severely affected by weather losses in the first quarter. There was also a sharp increase in large fire losses compared with the first half of last year when experience in this class of business was particularly favourable. The Motor account produced a loss at the half year of £25.6m (1989 £1.5m profit) reflecting a continued increase in both claims frequency and the average cost of claims. The Liabilities account showed improvement but continued to report losses.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$804.5m (1989 \$742.4m) with an operating ratio of 110.22% as compared with 106.93%. On the United Kingdom accounting basis the underwriting loss was £48.6m (1989 £33.9m loss). An improvement against first quarter was achieved in all classes. In the second quarter personal lines also performed better than the equivalent period in 1989.

There was an encouraging result in Canada which reported an underwriting profit of £3.4m in the second quarter (1989 £0.8m profit) and a deficit at the half year of £0.9m (1989 £4.8m loss).

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £83.8m (1989 £29.3m loss) with most territories reporting increased losses. Results in Europe and Australia reflect the continued impact of bad weather.

New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first six months of 1990 were £25.3m (1989 £24.1m) and single premiums £20.6m (1989 £15.4m).

Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1990 of 9.7p per share (1989 equivalent 8.75p per share) costing £41.9m (1989 £37.2m) payable on or after 1st January 1991 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members at close of business on 2nd November 1990.

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the Company in lieu of the cash dividend.

General Accident plc

World Headquarters: Rethelville Perth Scotland TD2 0NH

GKN to invest \$140m in US pallet joint venture

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

GKN is planning to invest \$140 million in America's first nationwide hire pool of industrial pallets, which are used in the delivery of \$150 billion worth of dry groceries every year. The decision is a key strategic move that analysts say could boost GKN's non-automotive profits in the next five years.

Sandy Morris of County Natwest said that the group's industrial services division could become as important as automotive components.

GKN has been working on the pallet-pooling project with a number of similar American customers, such as Procter & Gamble, the leading US household products company. It plans to build up a stock of 1.5 million pallets in more than 50 depots across America.

The new venture, Chep USA, will be run jointly by GKN and Brambles, the Australian pallet-pool operator. David Lees, the GKN chairman, said: "This is a significant move by GKN and Brambles into a market of very great potential." He hoped the venture would break into profit in the second or third year.

Investment of \$70 million is planned for each of the first two years. GKN and Brambles will share half the cost. The balance will be raised through outside finance. Mr Lees said that returns on capital could eventually reach 30 per cent.

Mr Lees confirmed the new venture along with interim results for the six months to June. These showed a fall in

pre-tax profits from £110.1 million to £100.5 million. The stock market, which had been expecting a downturn following a profits warning at the annual meeting, marked GKN shares up 5p to 355p.

Profits were hit by a sharp downturn in car production, which fell 9 per cent in Britain and 14 per cent in America. Interest charges rose to £20.4 million, against £16 million in the first half of 1989. There were also higher reorganisation and redundancy costs of £3.6 million, but exchange rate factors boosted the group's trading surplus by £5 million.

A strong performance from joint ventures in transmission equipment raised related company profits from £27.4 million to £30.1 million. After a higher tax rate, earnings per share slipped from 26p to 22.2p.

The closure of the Brymbo steel works of United Engineering Steels, jointly owned by GKN and British Steel, accounted for a below the line charge of £32.8 million.

Trading profits from the automotive and defence operations were £58 million, against £64 million last time.

Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 8p, compared with 7.5p last time.

GKN has won a contract to supply constant velocity drive shafts to Toyota for its new 1800cc car to be built in Britain. Initial output is to be 100,000 cars a year, rising to 200,000 when the production line is running at full capacity.



David Lees: a "significant" move in the United States

Liquidation threat for Bond Corp

AFTER several reprieves, Alan Bond's master company Bond Corporation may be forced into liquidation if holders of the company's US\$340 million of convertible bonds vote against two resolutions presented in London today.

At a meeting at Bond Corp's headquarters in Northumberland Avenue, London, 75 per cent of the two classes of bond-holders must approve the resolutions, to grant a one-year moratorium on interest payments as well as the \$51.8 billion sale of Bond Brewing to Bell Resources, another Bond Corp company.

Last month, meetings were adjourned after Mr Bond offered to resign as chairman and reduce his control of Bond Corp from 56 to less than 25 per cent, as concessions.

Since then, Bond Corp missed a deadline to repay \$488 million (£371 million) to a syndicate of banks led by National Australia Bank.

Alcan slumps 70% to £8.4m

British Alcan Aluminium, the wholly owned subsidiary of the Canadian primary aluminium producer Alcan Aluminium, has reported a 70 per cent slump in pre-tax profits from £27.2 million to £8.4 million for the half year to end-June.

Aluminium sales fell 6 per cent to 158,000 tonnes, mainly because of lower ingot demand.

Explaura loss

EXPLAURA Holdings, the USM-quoted operator of a Canadian limestone quarry, says its operations have been proved "both feasible and viable" and a first-time sales revenue is being generated. The net interim loss for the six months to end-June has fallen from £71.5 million to £45,400. The loss per share is down from 0.07p to 0.04p. Once again, there is no interim dividend. Shares eased by 1p to 28½p.

Wickes tumbles on closure costs

By OUR CITY STAFF

PROFITS at Wickes, the do-it-yourself retailer, have been cut by Hunter Timber, the timber specialist and joinery merchant which it acquired from Hillsdown Holdings for more than £210 million two years ago.

Hunter, which has been through a period of heavy rationalisation, saw operating profits fall 35 per cent in the six months to end-June. As a result, group pre-tax profits fell from £15 million to £6.09 million. Sales slipped from £345 million to £338 million and earnings per share fell from 8.6p to 3.2p. The interim payout has been maintained at 1p.

Group profits include £3.36

million from property disposals and the reorganisation of transport activities. There is an exceptional charge of £3.93 million for the reorganisation of the Hunter and Malden businesses, and an extraordinary charge of £734,000 for the closure and disposal of businesses.

Henry Sweetbaum, chairman and chief executive, said the of the poor housing market and the effects of the Hunter rationalisation programme had affected the business badly. About 550 employees were made redundant in the first half. Mr Sweetbaum said the rationalisation programme was more or less complete.

Simon rises 15% on falling sales

By JONATHAN FRynn

SIMON Engineering, which has a £50 million contract with Iraq, has reported a 15 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits, despite falling sales. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 were £14.7 million compared with £14.3 million last year. Turnover fell by 14 per cent to £277.7 million.

The company has an agreement to build a sulphuric acid plant in Iraq, though work has not started. Roy Roberts, the chairman, said that if no more payments were forthcoming on the contract, there would be "a small (£2 million-£3 million) loss of profit" in the 1992-93 financial year.

The interim dividend is increased by 16 per cent to 5p.

New chairman's plans for LME

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE Wolff dynasty has regained the chairmanship of the London Metal Exchange in 1987. He has been vice-chairman of the board since the LME was reorganised as a company. But his ascent to board chairman follows the unexpected resignation last month of Christopher Green.

Mr Wolff is keen to emphasise continuity of policy after the turbulence of the tin crisis of the late 1980s, but he has, at the same time, no

intention of standing still. He plans to extend the LME's position as the world's pre-eminent non-ferrous metals exchange, giving key roles to education and marketing.

As a director of Rudolf Wolff & Co, a prominent, ring-dealing member of the LME, Mr Wolff is no stranger.

He was the last chairman of the ruling committee before the restructuring of the LME in 1987. He has been vice-chairman of the board since the LME was reorganised as a company. But his ascent to board chairman follows the unexpected resignation last month of Christopher Green.

Mr Wolff said he would maintain the direction of the past three years, underlining the importance of the LME as the pricing and hedging medium for the world's metal markets. Its annual contribution to Britain's invisible earnings is a useful £100 million.



Wolff: not standing still

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily Chg (%)	Yearly Chg (%)	Daily Chg (pts)	Yearly Chg (pts)
The World	626.7	0.8	-25.7	0.7	-14.9
(free)	119.5	0.8	-25.9	0.7	-15.1
EAPE	1095.1	0.6	-29.7	0.6	-20.2
(free)	112.1	0.8	-30.1	0.5	-20.8
Europe	671.9	-2.0	-11.7	-1.7	-7.1
(free)	144.2	-2.0	-11.8	-2.0	-8.1
Nth America	442.9	1.2	-17.7	0.3	-5.0
Nordic	1450.5	-1.5	-6.8	-1.3	1.0
(free)	231.9	-1.8	-1.4	-1.6	-2.6
Pacific	2386.7	2.8	-39.8	2.5	-27.7
Far East	3426.3	2.8	-40.7	2.6	-28.6
Australia	295.8	2.7	-14.8	1.5	-3.1
Austria	1712.1	-2.9	-15.2	-2.4	-3.7
Belgium	800.4	-0.1	-18.7	0.3	-13.3
Canada	485.5	0.9	-22.5	0.2	-11.0
Denmark	1262.1	-0.4	-4.1	0.0	-2.5
Finland	126.9	0.2	-24.2	0.2	-18.7
(free)	126.9	0.3	-14.9	-0.3	-7.1
France	651.1	-4.2	-19.7	-3.6	-13.7
Germany	816.7	-4.0	-11.0	-2.7	-5.0
Hong Kong	2122.3	1.4	-4.3	0.6	10.1
Italy	328.0	-1.3	-15.4	-0.8	-2.1
Japan	3591.3	2.9	-14.8	2.7	-2.1
Netherlands	801.0	-2.2	-15.3	-1.6	-7.6
New Zealand	81.2	3.4	-21.2	2.6	-10.0
Norway	1455.5	-2.4	-8.4	-2.3	-17.2
(free)	256.2	-2.5	9.7	-2.4	18.5
Sing/Malaysia	1706.2	1.4	-14.5	0.7	-6.1
Spain	201.5	-0.3	-14.9	0.0	-11.1
Sweden	1612.2	-1.9	-8.1	-1.9	0.4
(free)	236.3	-2.9	-2.8	6.1	-3.7
Switzerland	817.2	-2.7	-10.6	-2.2	-9.8
(free)	121.9	-2.8	-12.7	-2.4	-11.8
UK	659.1	-0.6	-8.6	-0.6	-1.4
USA	399.8	1.2	-17.3	0.4	-4.5

(pt) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

DC Cook recovers to £2.1m

PRE-TAX profits at DC Cook, the USM motor dealer and property group, recovered from £514,000 to £2.13 million in the year to end-April, although turnover slipped from £222 million to £191.5 million.

The company said problems in the motor division are being overcome. Earnings per share are 6.2p, against a loss 0.15p last time, while fully diluted earnings are 5.41p (0.13p loss). The final dividend is restored with a payment of 1p for the year (1.33p).

Property gain

Rents from investment properties owned by Property Security Investment Trust rose 24 per cent to £13.3 million in the year to March. Group pre-tax profits advanced slightly to £6.45 million. The final dividend is 2.25p (1.875p) giving a total of 3.75p (3.125p). Net asset per share is 213p, up 5p.

Compass sells

Compass Group, the contract catering and healthcare group, is selling its Rosser & Russell building services subsidiary to Norwest Holst, the civil engineering and contracting firm which is part of the Compagnie Generale des Eaux group, for £21 million of which £3 million will depend on profits.

Beales slips

John Beales, the textiles to refrigeration group, saw pre-tax profits slip from £2.09 million to £2.02 million in the year to end-May. Earnings per share are static at 28p. The final dividend is 6.95p (5.75p), making 9p (7.6p) for the year.

Apollo Watch up

Apollo Watch Products, the USM watch strap maker which designs and distributes Disney character watches, lifted pre-tax profits from £426,000 to £480,000 in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share climb from 0.55p to 0.64p. Again there is no interim dividend.

Intercare leaps

Intercare Group, the USM optical and dental supplies group, made pre-tax profits of £169,000 in the six months to end-April, against £21,000 last time. Earnings per share jump from 0.5p to 1.5p. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Ranger ahead

Ranger Oil, the Canadian-based oil and gas company, reported first-half net income of US\$19.4 million, up from \$7.9 million, and earnings of 22 cents a share (10 cents).

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call	Put
Strike	Open	High	Low	Close	Open	High	Low	Close	Open	High
Adm Lym (164)	500	25	55	60	21	25	25	25	44	14
ASDA	550	8	18	25	62	62	62	62	1	3
(110)	100	23	28	28	2	4	4	4	1	2
ASDA	110	15	21	24	45	45	45	45	2	3
Bell	1120	8	15	18	10	10	10	10	2	3
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1150	15	20	18	10	10	10	10	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1200	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1250	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1300	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1350	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1400	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1450	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1500	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1550	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1600	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1650	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1700	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1750	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1800	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1850	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1900	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	1950	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2000	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2050	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2150	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2200	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2250	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2300	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2350	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2400	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2450	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2500	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2550	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2600	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2650	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2700	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2750	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2800	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2850	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2900	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	2950	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3000	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3050	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3150	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3200	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3250	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3300	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3350	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3400	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3450	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3500	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3550	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3600	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3650	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3700	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3750	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3800	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3850	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3900	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	3950	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4000	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4050	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4150	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4200	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4250	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4300	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4350	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4400	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4450	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4500	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4550	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4600	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4650	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4700	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
(1080)	1100	30	35	32	62	62	62	62	1	2
Bell	4750	3								

Cash is king at Standard Chartered

COMMENT

The stock market has damned Standard Chartered with faint praise. Yesterday, investors added 3.5 per cent to the bank's capitalisation, not because its half-year figures inspired any confidence, but since they were only as bad as expected.

The results provided plenty of fodder for the bears, but for once it was ignored. Standard had returned to the black, strengthened its capital ratio and maintained a 12.5p dividend, and investors seemed happy to enquire no further.

If they had, they might have worried that before bad debt provisions, profits fell 8 per cent to £192 million, despite last year's £400 million capital injection from the sale of unwanted property.

They might also have noticed that almost half Standard's trading profits came from its central financing business, which begs the question why it bothers to have a global banking network at all, when far better returns are available from a cash pile in the City. Prospective investors may finally have shuddered at a 69 per

cent tax charge, caused by unrelieved ACT. Standard now has £100 million in ACT provisions, which, since its UK business lost £7.6 million in the period, show little sign of being used. This is on a dividend that has not budged since the bank's forecast during the bid from Lloyds four years ago, and shows little prospect of an advance this year or next.

Nevertheless there are signs that Rodney Galpin's patent bank remedy is working better than the McMahon medicinal compound at Midland. In his two years as chairman, Mr Galpin has kept costs under control, and restored the balance sheet, neither of which has been managed by his former Bank of England colleague in Midland.

His final task however is the hardest. He must improve Standard's asset quality, as evidenced by a 133 per cent rise in bad debt provisions to £89.3 million. He has to do this while

maintaining the income stream, which is so depressed to leave him little room for manoeuvre. The jury, and the wise investor, would do well to stay out for the moment.

Back to basics

David Tweedie, chairman of the nascent Accounting Standards Board, knew he would be facing a baptism of fire over the issue of goodwill and the linked question of valuing acquired brands in balance sheets. His task will be made even more complex by an ingeniously constructed intervention by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

The ICA suggests Mr Tweedie's board should, before

wrestling with accounting for goodwill, first define the purpose of a balance sheet. Back to fundamentals.

Essentially, it maintains, the tail wagged the dog in the committee's proposals. The proposals started with a desire to ban instant write-offs and not to allow goodwill, including brands, to be carried permanently in balance sheets. This, says the ICA response, was the driving force behind the simultaneous proposals on accounting for assets of all kinds. The process should have gone the other way.

"Once we have full agreement on the purpose of accounts and thus on the purpose of a balance sheet, we will be in a better position to reach agreement on accounting for separable fixed assets, tangible and intangible, and subsequently on accounting

for goodwill," says the ICA.

Quite so. Many users, such as lenders and investment analysts, have had to abandon meaningless balance sheets and rely on cash flow figures that have turned out to be less stable than they imagined. Unfortunately, there seems as much chance of the ASB agreeing in a few months on the purpose of accounts and balance sheets as of philosophers reaching unanimity on the meaning of life over lunch.

Lost property

Until this week the 1990 property slump differed from the 1973 property crash by not being accompanied by an oil crisis. It is far from certain for how much longer that distinction will remain. It is a time for cool heads.

August is a wicked month for any bank to pull the plug on a property company. More so than

virtually any other sector of business, the property sector is notorious for taking its summer holidays very seriously indeed.

So, if as appears the case, the bank backers of Rockfort and Broadwell Land have finally lost patience, they might be wise to take a deep breath and pause for thought before asking for their money back.

For prior to the great August exodus there were just the first signs that buyers were trickling back into the commercial property market. Reputable property agents were reporting interest from institutions that just a month or so earlier would have refused to go anywhere near a property investment, while some of the industry's more respected members, such as John Ritblat and Sir Nigel Brookes, were quietly intimating that, as yields rose on an almost weekly basis, the time for some selective buying was approaching.

September could well see buyers return, albeit looking for knock-down bargains. For some it will undoubtedly be too late, but with prudence the casualty list could be short.

TEMPUS

Looking forward to full benefits from SB

JOHN CHAPMAN



Pointing the way ahead: Bob Bauman yesterday

and tightening its operations in the wake of previous disasters.

The January storms made the first quarter a dead loss for virtually all. In the second quarter, GA made pre-tax profits of just £14 million due to an all-round poor performance, making little impact on first-quarter losses and leaving an overall pre-tax loss of £66.2 million for the first half.

CU managed pre-tax profits of £42 million in the second quarter, thanks to static underwriting losses, making a £16 million pre-tax profit for the half year on premium

income about a fifth higher than GA's.

The second half is bound to reflect failure to raise premium rates against rising claims, though GA has raised rates on its important UK motor account. GA may well end up with a loss for the year, while CU may make about £80 million pre-tax, equivalent to 11.3p per share.

The best news was in the interim dividends, up 10 per cent at CU and 10.9 per cent at GA. If this trend persists, CU will yield 6.7 per cent on a full year payment of 23.7p at 470p and GA 7.5 per cent on 27.75p at 496p.

This modest differential can only be justified on GA's greater potential to bounce from the bottom of the cycle, which has also borne on its estate agencies. Otherwise CU looks the better bet on management, on its much bigger life profits, on its better strategy in continental Europe, and on the bid potential of the Sun Alliance stake.

Ultramar

IF A week is a long time in politics, it is an eternity in the oil industry. Ultramar has reported first-half net income down from £62.5 million to £36.1 million and blamed the shortfall on low oil prices. Earnings per share fell from 17p to 9.8p.

But the 17 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 3.5p gives a better picture of the current state of play.

By Ultramar's estimates, every additional \$1 on a barrel of oil adds \$800,000 a month to net income. First-half figures were calculated on an average price of \$17.50 a barrel, so it is easy to see why the company is relaxed.

Ultramar's interests in the United States and Canada also left it exposed to adverse exchange-rate movements. Calculated at 1989 year-end rates, interim net income would have been almost unchanged at £60.6 million. On a replacement cost basis, net income would have been marginally lower at £45.2 million, against £47 million, before stockholding losses of £9.1 million.

Upstream activities will benefit from deliveries of liquid natural gas to Taiwan and the start-up in October of the Ravenspurn North gas field in the North Sea, in which Ultramar has a 12 per cent interest.

Downstream, North American refining and marketing activities should make good first-half losses on stocks.

So much depends on the outcome of the Gulf conflict. But net income of £100 million this year and earnings of 27.2p puts the shares, at 355p, on an undemanding multiple of 13 and at a 40 per cent discount to net asset value of 600p, one of the highest in the sector. A strong hold.

Philips dashes European dreams

WHEN Philips, the Dutch electronics group, announces its half-year results today the disappointment will not be confined to Eindhoven, where the company has its headquarters, or to its shareholders.

For Philips' difficulties, which became apparent three months ago, might also signal the end of Europe's dream of a prosperous indigenous computer and electronic components industry.

Philips has been one of the world's most innovative electronics groups. Its compact video disc, an ill-fated though technically excellent standard, is just one example of the company's technological knowhow.

But the once proud protagonist of Dutch corporatism now expects to suffer losses of 2 billion guilders (£600 million) this year because of problems in its computer and components divisions. About 10,000 out of a total workforce of 293,000 will have to be laid off. Cor van der Klugt, already been forced to resign as group chairman. Last

month, Philips warned shareholders that it would need to make provisions of Fl 2.7 billion to cover reconstruction costs in the two divisions. However, at the same time, it repeated its commitment to these businesses.

Philips, like its West German rival, Siemens, has sought a presence in all the main electronics fields.

In fact Philips, like Siemens, came late to the computer making and components businesses, when it was already clear that the Japanese were challenging US supremacy in these markets.

As a result, the Europeans had not only to set up an industry almost from scratch, but also to close an ever-widening gap between themselves and the Japanese. This has been a crucial weakness of the European industry.

Siemens has had some success. Through dogged determination and huge investment, it has succeeded in narrowing the gap with the Japanese in the production of microchips. Philips, in contrast, still trails a long way behind the



Timmer: cost cutting plans Japanese when it comes to computers. It is not just the models Philips produces that have hindered progress, nor even production costs, though they are a problem, but the lack of flexibility and speed with which the group has traditionally approached production.

These problems are now top of the agenda for Jan Timmer, Philips' new chairman. He is best known for his rescue of the company's consumer electronics division. That was basically a cost-cutting exercise. Mr Timmer has

revealed few details of his plans. But his commitment to Philips' continued presence in the computer and components businesses has cast some doubt on his programme's viability.

Philips' problems are a result of its corporate strategy. That strategy is similar to the one adopted by Siemens. But when the West German firm expanded its electronics businesses it had at its disposal huge cash reserves. Philips, by contrast, is highly geared at around 90 per cent.

Philips' main problem is its diversity. The company is not new to restructuring programmes. But, in the past, while one division was being restructured, another was going wrong.

It is now essential for Philips to recognise the uncertainty that faces the entire electronics sector in Europe and to concentrate on the most profitable areas.

These do not include computers and semiconductors.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

CU/GA

BARRING surprises, Commercial Union and General Accident will have settled first prize and wooden spoon for the season of composite insurance interims, in a single day. GA is suffering from being in the wrong business in the wrong places, while CU is benefiting from biting bullets

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Aling back in the fold

BARRY Aling, the top-ranked Far Eastern expert, who walked out of Swiss Bank Corporation in January, is back in business. And using the best of his corporate juggling skills, Aling, aged 40, has persuaded four former SBC colleagues to join him at his new company, Marlin Partners, which is billed as a small boutique operation offering specialist advice on the markets of the Far East. He will be working with Tim Lovell, John McGaw, Bobby Yerburgh and Tom Leventhorpe — all former cronies at WI Carr as well as SBC. Aling, who joined Phillips & Drew as a blue button at the age of 16 and went on to become managing director of WI Carr, has yet plans more up his sleeve. He has signed a joint venture with Ord Minnett, the Australian stockbroking subsidiary of Westpac, the banking group, to form a second company — Marlin Ord Minnett — which will be based in Hong Kong and aims to develop joint ventures with regional securities firms in Asia. "We hope to buy or build some form of network in Asia by taking minority stakes in local companies," says Aling, who commutes to his Piccadilly offices from Westerham, Kent, and enjoys skiing and playing squash.

Sign of the times

IAN Hendry, a long-standing customer, of NatWest, the

self-proclaimed "action bank", has been sent a specimen card for a record of his signature — 37 years after he opened his account. Hendry, who is retired and lives near Fort William, says he was surprised to receive the request so far down the line. "The letter arrived out of the blue," says Hendry who has held the same account with the bank since 1953 and switched to the Fenchurch Street branch in the City in 1972. "How did they know to accept our cheques and banker's orders?" A NatWest spokesman said all new customers gave specimen signatures as a matter of course, adding: "I think it's just a bit of tidying up in the branch."

SB competition

BOB Bauman, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham and himself an American, was rather miffed at his own President yesterday whose

Washington press conference on the Iraq-Kuwait situation clashed with Bauman's presentation to the London press corps of SB's interim results. "Thank you so much for coming at a time when Mr (sic) George Bush has called a news conference, and might have something more interesting to say," Bauman told the journalists who gathered at the London press centre. SB had also arranged its first transatlantic link-up to follow the press conference so that US analysts would not feel left out. "And how many do you expect to turn up given the competition?" SB was asked. "Well, 100 seats have been put out, and we'll just have to see how many sit down," an aide replied. Perhaps fortunately, a Middle East link-up was not on the agenda.

The third R

THE Mercury News, a newspaper in California, claims to have discovered a modern version of the three Rs: readin', 'ritin', and replacin' batteries in the calculator.

Moonlight notes

SOMEbody, somewhere, has a wicked sense of humour. The Department of Trade and Industry has just realised that an insurance outfit in Birmingham, the West Midlands, and Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, has been issuing motor insurance cover notes, even though it is not authorised in any way to carry on any class of insurance. Anybody who has one of these notes is advised to seek alternative

cover. The notes are worth less than the paper on which they are printed, except as possible collectors' items. The company? Moonlight Insurance.

SIGN on the door of the meteorologist's office at a West Country naval air base: "We're Pain! — becoming drier later."

Sharp shooters

CHARLOTTE Square, the legendary home of Edinburgh's financiers, will be all but deserted tomorrow as fund managers pay homage to the new shooting season at Ivory & Sime's annual clay pigeon shoot. And among the 37 teams who are paying £120 each for the privilege of taking part in the event, at West Calder, will be Bell Lawrie, Edinburgh's largest stockbroker, who scored something of a coup at last year's event. In a team shoot, Bell's sharpshooters scored an impressive 50 points — out of a maximum of 50 — leaving them with no hope of improvement this time round. The event, the third of its kind and billed as the Derby Day of the North, last year raised £3,000 for Venture Scotland, a charity for the young and underprivileged, and carries a host of colourful prizes. For the first time, members of the winning team will be given free use of a Jaguar for a week, along with the ultimate accolade — a stuffed grouse, carefully packaged, and presented in its own box.

JON ASHWORTH

Interim dividend raised 10%

★ Operating profit before taxation £16.0m (1989 £90.2m) affected by storms in the first quarter costing £55m.

★ Realised investment gains amounted to £45.5m and the profit attributable to shareholders was £54.7m.

★ Total premium growth 11%, but non-life markets remain competitive.

★ Life profits increase to £49.6m (1989 £44.1m) with strong new life premium growth of 39%.

★ United States improves to a profit of £2.6m (1989 loss £20.7m).

★ Shareholders' funds £1,477m.

HIGHLIGHTS

	6 months 1990 Unaudited	6 months 1989 Unaudited
Total premium income	£1,917.0m	£1,800.8m
Operating profit before taxation	£16.0m	£90.2m
Operating profit after taxation	£9.2m	£49.3m
Earnings per share	2.1p	11.7p
Interim dividend per share	9.0p	8.15p

Earnings per share are based on the operating profit after taxation.

The interim dividend of 9.0p per share will be paid on 16 November 1990 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 31 August 1990 and will cost £38.5m (1989 £34.5m).

Shareholders will be offered the choice of receiving fully paid ordinary shares, rather than cash, in respect of all or part of the interim dividend.

The interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 13 August 1990. Members of the public may obtain copies of the report thereafter by writing to the Shareholder Relations Service, Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ or by telephoning 071-283 7500 ext. 8866.



Commercial Union plc

WALL STREET

[illegible][illegible]

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
15	Pleas	Industrials E-K	100	100
16	Asda	Property	100	100
17	Crax	Transport	100	100
18	Br Airways (as)	Transport	100	100
19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	100
28	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
29	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	100	100
30	Medical Bar	Property	100	100
31	Port Foods	Food	100	100
32	Reliance Int	Industrials A-D	100	100
33	Utd Browsers (as)	Food	100	100
34	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	100	100
35	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	100	100
36	Lon & Metro	Property	100	100
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	100	100
38	Anglian Water	Water	100	100
39	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
40	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	100	100
41	Scholes Gyp	Electronics	100	100
42	Claydon Son	Industrials A-D	100	100
43	Highland Dist	Breweries	100	100
44	HK Shanghai	Bank/Discom	100	100

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
15	Pleas	Industrials E-K	100	100
16	Asda	Property	100	100
17	Crax	Transport	100	100
18	Br Airways (as)	Transport	100	100
19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	100
28	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
29	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	100	100
30	Medical Bar	Property	100	100
31	Port Foods	Food	100	100
32	Reliance Int	Industrials A-D	100	100
33	Utd Browsers (as)	Food	100	100
34	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	100	100
35	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	100	100
36	Lon & Metro	Property	100	100
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	100	100
38	Anglian Water	Water	100	100
39	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
40	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	100	100
41	Scholes Gyp	Electronics	100	100
42	Claydon Son	Industrials A-D	100	100
43	Highland Dist	Breweries	100	100
44	HK Shanghai	Bank/Discom	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
15	Pleas	Industrials E-K	100	100
16	Asda	Property	100	100
17	Crax	Transport	100	100
18	Br Airways (as)	Transport	100	100
19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	100
28	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
29	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	100	100
30	Medical Bar	Property	100	100
31	Port Foods	Food	100	100
32	Reliance Int	Industrials A-D	100	100
33	Utd Browsers (as)	Food	100	100
34	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	100	100
35	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	100	100
36	Lon & Metro	Property	100	100
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	100	100
38	Anglian Water	Water	100	100
39	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
40	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	100	100
41	Scholes Gyp	Electronics	100	100
42	Claydon Son	Industrials A-D	100	100
43	Highland Dist	Breweries	100	100
44	HK Shanghai	Bank/Discom	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
15	Pleas	Industrials E-K	100	100
16	Asda	Property	100	100
17	Crax	Transport	100	100
18	Br Airways (as)	Transport	100	100
19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	100
28	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
29	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	100	100
30	Medical Bar	Property	100	100
31	Port Foods	Food	100	100
32	Reliance Int	Industrials A-D	100	100
33	Utd Browsers (as)	Food	100	100
34	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	100	100
35	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	100	100
36	Lon & Metro	Property	100	100
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	100	100
38	Anglian Water	Water	100	100
39	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
40	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	100	100
41	Scholes Gyp	Electronics	100	100
42	Claydon Son	Industrials A-D	100	100
43	Highland Dist	Breweries	100	100
44	HK Shanghai	Bank/Discom	100	100

UNDATED

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
15	Pleas	Industrials E-K	100	100
16	Asda	Property	100	100
17	Crax	Transport	100	100
18	Br Airways (as)	Transport	100	100
19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	100
28	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	100	100
29	Br Borneo	Oil/Gas	100	100
30	Medical Bar	Property	100	100
31	Port Foods	Food	100	100
32	Reliance Int	Industrials A-D	100	100
33	Utd Browsers (as)	Food	100	100
34	GKN (as)	Industrials E-K	100	100
35	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	100	100
36	Lon & Metro	Property	100	100
37	Lykes (S)	Textiles	100	100
38	Anglian Water	Water	100	100
39	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
40	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	100	100
41	Scholes Gyp	Electronics	100	100
42	Claydon Son	Industrials A-D	100	100
43	Highland Dist	Breweries	100	100
44	HK Shanghai	Bank/Discom	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

No.	Category	Group	Cash	Share
1	Continental	Building Roads	100	100
2	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100	100
3	Davy	Industrials A-D	100	100
4	Micro Focus	Electronics	100	100
5	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	100	100
6	Ocean Group	Transport	100	100
7	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
8	Allied (as)	Property	100	100
9	Microfilm Repro	Electronics	100	100
10	Regalton	Property	100	100
11	Petroleum	Oil/Gas	100	100
12	Entomeric (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
13	Reckitt	Industrials L-R	100	100
14	Mersey Docks	Transport	100	100
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17	Crax	Transport	100	100
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19	Nespos-BNA	Industrials L-R	100	100
20	T & N (as)	Industrials S-Z	100	100
21	Northumbria	Water	100	100
22	Dawson	Textiles	100	100
23	Hunterpitt	Paper Print/Adv	100	100
24	Thames Water	Water	100	100
25	Ulster (as)	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	100	100
27	Morland	Breweries	100	10

These prices relate to Tuesday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 94.8 (day's range 94.8-95.0).

MONEY MARKETS

MONEY MARKETS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FINANCIAL FUTURES

42.70	82.70	81.70
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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
 does volume previous day . . . Ru

Mar 740-739 Sep 735-737 (4 copies) Cash 3 months Vol
Dec 826-822

466.0-466.5	468.0-469.0	
1650.0-1652.0	1543.0-1545.0	

JAN 583-582	Sep 670-650	Aluminum H ₂ O	6980.0-6990.0	6105.0-6110.0	6030
Mar 608-607			1762.0-1763.0		

/ oz). * (\$ per tonne)

Dec 25.0-29.0	Aug 23.4-32.0	LONDON MEAT
Mar 22.0-28.8	Oct 22.0-31.8	FUTURES (100)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Close	(/kg live)	Fig
107.0	68 (at)	

BARLEY close (F/M)	Oct	110.5	109.3	GB (+/-)	-2.31	100.77
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Eng/Wal (b)	75.89
Eng/Wal (+/-)	-2.31
Scotland (%)	n/a

0	Dec 120.0-17.5	Sep	102.5	Scotland (p)	n/a	124.40	102.63
		Oct	103.5	Scotland	n/a		

071-481 4481

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Gallant Bocas Rose can benefit from Brighton excursion

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

IF THERE is any justice in the world of racing, Bocas Rose will win the Brighton Sprint Handicap on the South Coast track today, in the hands of the champion jockey Pat Eddery.

The Richard Hannon-trained four-year-old thoroughly deserves to win a prize of this nature, having finished second in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood, third in the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket and fourth in the Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot this summer.

At Goodwood last week she accounted for all but her stable companion Knight Of Mercy, who just managed to hang on and win by a neck in that nail-biting finish, which also involved the Wokingham Stakes runner-up Amigo Menor. So the form looks thoroughly reliable.

Green Dollar, who finished sixth in the Stewards' Cup, 2½ lengths behind Bocas Rose, repossesses her on the same terms, having finished third behind Restore and Be Fresh, again at Goodwood, in the meantime.

Having also won twice at Brighton when she was aged two, Bocas Rose should not be remotely fazed by the conditions that face her now, and she is expected to beat Divine



Hannon's speedy return for his Bocas Rose

Pet, the winner of the corresponding race last year.

Divine Pet sidestepped the Stewards' Cup in order to wait for today. Even at his best, and this season that best amounts to splitting Baligay and Letsbenestabunt in a finish of heads at Salisbury last month, he should not be quite capable of beating Bocas Rose.

A victory for Bocas Rose could easily turn out to be the second leg of a four-timer for the champion jockey, who is also taken to win on Mary From Damlow (2.30), Cloud Free (4.0), and Echo Princess (4.30).

Mary From Damlow and Echo Princess are both trained by Jack Berry, whose appetite for success is quite clearly insatiable, while Cloud Free can fill enough in her only race so far at Beverley to

suggest that she can cope with Snowspin in the Cliftonville Maiden Stakes, a race that her trainer Guy Harwood also picked up last year with Isabella Ra.

As far as the Brighton Summer Handicap is concerned, I am quite content to row along with Knock Knock now that Fred Arrowsmith will be claiming a 7lb allowance. Recently, the Kingsclere-based five-year-old has been in fine form when ridden by Ian Balding's daughter, Clare.

A win for Jazzealand in the EBF Black Rock Maiden Stakes should trigger off a long-range double for his trainer Mark Prescott, who must surely be entertaining hopes of also winning the City Of Wakefield Handicap at Pontefract with Milligan, whose strong finish at Goodwood a week ago accounted for all but March Bird in the Schweppes Golden Mile.

Finally, Les Sylphides looks a good bet to win the Stewards' Cup, having run the useful Helen's Guest to a short head at Nottingham. On that run Les Sylphides has nothing to fear from Instant Desire, who was five lengths behind in third place.

Mary From Damlow and Echo Princess are both trained by Jack Berry, whose appetite for success is quite clearly insatiable, while Cloud Free can fill enough in her only race so far at Beverley to

Chimes Of Freedom looks to Deauville

From Our French Racing Correspondent, DEAUVILLE

MACHIAVELLIAN, who finished a dismal last behind Dead Certain at Deauville last weekend, has been taken out of the televised Prix du Fresnay-Le-Buffard Jacques Le Marois at the same French course on Sunday, but it is looking increasingly likely that Henry Cecil's Chimes Of Freedom will instead represent the Niarchos interests.

A spokeswoman for Niarchos said yesterday: "As in her recent races, a decision will be taken at the last moment and will depend on the ground. Obviously, Mr Niarchos would like to have a representative in the race sponsored by his son."

However, a problem clearly exists regarding a jockey for the filly as she is set to carry 8st 6lb, 3lb less than Steve Cauthen's riding weight.

Other probable British runners for a race that the cross-Channel raiders have won only once in the last 25 years are Great Line Express, Rock City and Candy Glen, though the Sussex Stakes winner Distant Relative, among 15 left in yesterday's first fortnight, is not expected to run.

Strongest of the confirmed local runners are Septieme Ciel, runaway winner of the group three Prix de la Forêt de Marolles in last month, and Francois Boutin's French 2,000 Guineas winner Linamix.

Guy Harwood's Assatis is a surprise absentee from Germany's big race on Sunday, the Aral-Pokal at Gelsenkirchen-Horst. The five-year-old is being re-routed to the Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury on Saturday week.

He and his wife, Jo, set up in 1969 and moved to their present yard at Cockerham, Lancashire, in 1972. In the early years ambition dictated that the comfort of the horses took priority, even over his own family.

"It was hard to begin with," Berry recalled. "We all lived in a caravan and on Sundays I would boil a kettle of water for a wash and take the family out for a meal at the Horton service station on the M6."

From Pontefract, where Berry watched Heaven-Liegh-Grey's success from the Tote room on SIS, he said: "Wasn't it great? I told everyone last week that Heaven-Liegh-Grey would

be a good form for the Gimcrack at York on August 22."

Hannon, however, could still be represented in Sunday's Prix de la Forêt de Marolles with Rock City.

"He's in good shape after finishing second behind Dead Certain at Deauville last Sunday and should think he will take his chance," continued the East Everleigh trainer. "Regal Sabre is also in good form for the Gimcrack at York on August 22."

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